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ART. I. *General View of the Agriculture of the County of Lincoln; drawn up for the Consideration of the Board of Agriculture and internal Improvement.* By the Secretary to the Board. 8vo. 450 pages. Price 8s. Nicol. 1799.

WHATEVER opinions may be entertained by individuals on the establishment and general utility of the board of agriculture, there can be no doubt of its having been the means of bringing before the public a large and valuable body of information on practical husbandry. It has also brought to the view of agriculturists various local and private modes of management, which, had it not existed, must long have remained unknown, but by those who practised them. Of the truth of these remarks we have the most convincing proofs in the report before us, which is drawn up with great ability, and displays an intimate and extensive acquaintance with agriculture both as a science, and as a practical art.

The following introductory observations are highly pleasing: they totally remove the unfavorable opinion which has long gone abroad respecting the liberality of communication in the farming class of society.

Introd. p. i.—‘ I ought,’ says the able Secretary, ‘ with great eagerness to seize this and every opportunity of declaring, that it was not possible to meet with a more liberal spirit of communication than I experienced in the county of Lincoln; not confined to the nobility and gentry of fortune, from whom it might be expected of course, but from every class of the people: the clergy, farmers, graziers, and equally the inhabitants of towns; all were desirous to contribute whatever information was in their power; the numerous breeders of sheep and cattle were emulous in shewing their stock without reserve or mystery, and explaining their motives and reasons for adopting or adhering to this or that breed, with an openness and candour which will for ever give me a very high idea of the merit of that respectable class.’

The plan and general arrangement of these reports are now so well known, that we shall not stop to offer any remarks

upon them, but proceed to examine the materials which the author has presented to our view.

Under the head *property*, when speaking of the management of estates, we are told that there are still in this county 'men possessed of estates of three, four, five, and even six or seven hundreds a year, and yet remaining farmers, occupying other farms hired, and some of them living merely on their own, but keeping entirely to the manners and the appearance of farmers.'

P. 19.—'Such a spectacle,' says the author, 'is not only pleasing to an individual, but highly beneficial to the community; such men are able to cultivate their land well, and to make exertions not in the power of weaker efforts; and would do much more if it was the custom of the county to give leases; but unfortunately it is not.'

On farm-houses and out-buildings the Secretary has thrown out several judicious hints, and offered some calculations that may be of local utility. But the value of materials for these purposes vary so much in different situations, that there can be little general advantage in such estimates.

Of the farms and farmers of this county Mr. Young gives us information which is in many respects highly satisfactory.

P. 39.—'Upon the size of farms in general,' says he, 'in Lincolnshire, it may be very safely asserted, that they are moderate. The number of large ones bears no sort of proportion to those which are very small. And where both extremes are excluded, the size will be found much under what is common in many other counties. Farms of £.20. or 30. a year, though a few may be useful in some cases, as spurs to the industry of saving labourers; yet these instances will occur much more seldom than is commonly supposed. Upon a great estate minutely divided, Sir Joseph Banks would have very rarely an opportunity of placing such a labourer in a farm, without turning out some widow or son of a deceased tenant; so that in districts where these little farms greatly abound, they do not operate in this respect in any thing like the degree that has been stated by various writers. And it should further be considered, that as the occupiers of them are incomparably less at their ease, yet working much harder than labourers, it is much to be questioned, whether the mass of human happiness is not considerably lessened by such occupations. As to the effect of them on the cultivation of the kingdom, no doubt can be entertained of its evil tendency; and I have had very many opportunities of remarking it in the course of my journey through this county.

'As to the character of the farmers who have occupations sufficiently large to be met with at the most respectable ordinaries, or whose exertions had occasioned their being named to me as men proper to call upon, I can dispatch my account of them in a very few words; I have not seen a set more liberal in any part of the kingdom. Industrious, active, enlightened, free from all foolish and expensive show, or pretence to emulate the gentry; they live comfortably and hospitably, as good farmers ought to live; and in my opinion are remarkably void of those rooted prejudices which some-
times

times are reasonably objected to this race of men. I met,' says he, with many who had mounted their nags, and quitted their homes purposely to examine other parts of the kingdom; had done it with enlarged views, and to the benefit of their own cultivation. And the great energy at present exerted in consequence of the introduction of the new Leicester sheep, by some to spread that breed, and by others to improve their old race, will not only have excellent effects, but has set them to think upon all other sorts of stock. It has diffused an activity and a vigour, which will shew itself gradually in many other objects. The rapidity with which the culture of turnips has spread, and the manner in which they are cultivated; and the immense drainages, which, having opened new fields of wealth to landlords, have given opportunities to the tenantry neither lost nor neglected, are proofs also of the vigour with which these men have conducted their business. But without descending to particulars, and viewing only the general rise of rent in the county, we may be convinced that such a spectacle could not have taken place, but with a tenantry such as I have described.'

The subject of leases is touched upon, but not so fully as its importance requires. Few things would contribute more to the improvement of the kingdom than the judicious and proper granting of leases; but we fear very few have been less attended to, or less understood by those who have in general the management of them. They are much too frequently left to persons who are totally ignorant of the business of agriculture.

P. 59.—'As I wish,' says the author, 'to avoid all disquisitions which concern the kingdom at large, as much as the county of Lincoln in particular, it will be necessary only to remark, that great as have been improvements in it, I have not the least doubt they would have been much greater and more rapid, had the custom of granting leases been as common here as it is in Norfolk and Suffolk. I had particular conversations with some hundreds of farmers on this subject, and the universal opinion was, that if leases were granted, they would occasion exertions which are not found at present. Upon soils so rich that there is nothing to do, the want of them cannot be material; but upon all others, where liming, marling, draining, fencing, &c. are demanded, the want of a lease will often be the want of the improvement: and the *principle* will pervade the whole conduct of the business; nothing will be so well done upon an uncertain tenure, as with security. Confidence in a landlord attaches to himself only, and not at all to his successor; and the various instances that have occurred of estates being considerably raised, must act as warnings to others. Granting leases would, in this respect of raising rents, ease a landlord greatly; when there is no lease, there is no more reason for raising at one period than another, and when it has been done in Lincolnshire it has usually raised a great clamour. But if leases of twenty-one years were granted, the farmers would, in the first instance, very readily pay an advanced rent, as the price of the lease; and they might be given to understand, that at the expiration the rent would be raised again. Then a rise would be looked for as a matter of course, and no clamour would attend it. Should any landlord be inclined to

make this very valuable experiment, I would caution him upon one point; not to lease the farms of an estate at one time; but give them so in succession, that some might expire every year, when they began to fall in; which might be easily done by making it a work of five or six years, with a little variation in the duration of the leases. When a few farms in a great estate fall every year, and there is no general operation of *tasting* and valuing,—there will be no outcry; the business will be regular, and the effect smooth and quiet. The landlord will have his fair share in the progress of national prosperity, and his tenants will be secure and active.

‘As to covenants, a landlord would not sign leases without consulting some person upon this head, on whom he could well rely.’

We have many observations highly pertinent on inclosing; and the following respecting the Lincolnshire management of strong clays, though severe, are certainly just.

p. 83.—‘I was told,’ says the Secretary, ‘before I got into the Clays, as they are called, or Middle Marsh, that inclosing did not answer there, however it had succeeded on the Wolds. When I got to Humberston, I discovered the explanation: they summer fallow for wheat, and then take beans, after inclosing, exactly as before. How then can it answer? and old tracts of pasture are ploughed up in consequence, and not converted to a good system of tillage, but covered with bean crops that never see a hoe. In passing from thence to Tetney, Fulstow, Covenham, &c. I passed through a large open field in the fallow year, which had not, in September, received its first earth; but was covered with thistles, passed their blossom, high enough to hide a jackass; yet the dung was spread amongst them as if the wheat would be sowed: and the soil, thus horribly neglected, a fine rich tenacious loam, not clay, as greasy and soapy almost as a pure clay; but there is much sand in it:—a soil well worth 30s. an acre, or upwards, in rent, tithe, and rates. Who will be hardy enough to hazard such a folly, as that any part of the lime of Clays, I have seen or heard described, will not answer inclosing? Yet, such nonsense I have heard; no wonder, in a country where landlords, stewards, farmers, are all five centuries behind in every idea relative to strong land. They are awake and moving, on turnip land; but on bean soils, are still fast asleep.’

The management of the arable farms in this county is described with much clearness and precision. The practice of farmers in this extensive district, exhibits much variety; but not very much that ought to be adopted by those of other parts of the kingdom. The Norfolk turnip husbandry is, indeed, introduced, and generally well practised; but the culture of beans, and that of some few other crops are wretched, and have met with the severe censure of Mr. Y.

On the former he thus observes:

p. 138.—‘Remembering,’ say he, ‘as I do, this county about thirty years ago, no circumstance in it surprised me more than the astonishing change effected in respect to this crop. At that time there was scarcely a turnip to be seen, where now thousands of acres flourish; and the few sown in the whole county were unhoed,
except

except by here and there a gentleman. What a change! from such a state of backwardness, in an article so perfectly adapted to the soil, to find them now as plentiful, and, in various cases, even more so, than in some of our best cultivated counties. This has been a most meritorious progress closely attending that first of improvements, inclosing heaths and wastes. The crop is not yet perfect in the hands of all farmers, for I cannot say that I saw none unhoed; there are some slovens remaining, who either hoe but little, or doing it by servants, and not being in a regular system, execute it in a very insufficient manner.

‘But immense tracts are very well managed; and, by many persons, in as capital a style as any in Norfolk. This, upon the whole, is a most happy and important change; and has had great effects in improving the size, and increasing the number, of the sheep and cattle of the county.’

On drilling we have long entertained the opinion which Mr. Y. here offers, viz. that it only answers to a certain extent, and with a certain degree of skill and attention.

The remarks offered on grass and grazing lands, convey information that will no doubt be consulted with interest by the farmers of other districts.

We cannot avoid inserting one of Mr. Y.’s concluding remarks on the practice of *paring and burning*.

P. 257.—‘It was with great pleasure,’ says he, ‘I saw the effect of paring and burning gorse land, adjoining the warren of Thoresway, which had produced, even in this very wet season, so unfavourable to the operation, a fine crop of turnips. I was with my horse’s hind legs in gorse, and his fore ones in turnips, worth £3 an acre; formed like enchantment in the short space of four months; and yet visionaries remain, who will plead against so admirable a mode of converting a desert to cultivation! By no other means upon earth could this have been effected.’

The articles, *draining*, *watering*, and *warping*, contain much matter of the most important kind. The last is indeed a local practice which we believe is little known or employed in other parts of the kingdom.

Live stock is also a head under which the author has usefully arranged a large portion of valuable matter respecting both sheep and neat cattle. We are however here under the necessity of referring the reader to the work itself, where he will find facts, details, and observations which will amply reward his trouble.

We shall close our account of this masterly report with inserting a few of the author’s reflections on the utility of providing the laboring poor with proper cottages and small allotments of land.

P. 419.—‘It is impossible,’ says he, ‘to speak too highly in praise of the cottage system of Lincolnshire, where land, gardens, cows, and pigs, are so general in the hands of the poor. Upon views only of humanity and benevolence, it is gratifying to every

honest heart to see that class of the people comfortable, upon which all others depend. This motive alone ought to operate sufficiently to make the practice universal through the kingdom. But there are also others that should speak powerfully to the feelings even of the most selfish. Wherever this system is found, poor's-rates are low; upon an average of the county, they do not amount to one-third of what is paid in Suffolk; and another object, yet more important, is the attachment which men must inevitably feel to their country, when they partake thus in the property of it. It would be easy to expatiate on such topics, and indeed they can hardly be dwelt upon too much. But the great object which ought to employ every heart and hand, is to devise the means of rendering the system universal. This comes with peculiar propriety within the scope of the Board of Agriculture; nor do I see the use of surveying the whole kingdom, and attempting to discover every local circumstance that merits attention, if measures are not founded on the knowledge thus gained; if the Board does not follow such clues, or sift such subjects to the bottom, nor ascertain the best means of rendering universal, systems which have so much to recommend them. Well adapted premiums would here do much, probably in animating landlords to the work of benevolence, certainly in procuring still larger and more varied information, which is wanting, and particularly on the best means of carrying the practice into effect on poorer soils, where difficulties principally occur. By attaining such knowledge as is within the power of so respectable a body, when its energy is thus brought into play, the right means of legislative interference would probably be discovered, and the Board would find itself in a position respectable, because unquestionably useful, between administration on one hand, and the people on the other: an office of intelligence gleaned from the whole kingdom, and of ready application to many great measures of political economy. This is but one, though an important instance; many others might be named, were this a proper place.

ART. II. *The British Flora, or a Linnean Arrangement of British Plants, with their Generic and Specific Characters, Select Synonyms, English Names, Places of Growth, Duration, Times of Flowering, and References to Figures.* By John Hull, M.D. Member of the Corporation of Surgeons, and of the Physical Society of London; of the Natural History Society of Edinburgh; and Secretary of the Literary and Philosophical Society of Manchester. Part. I. 8vo. 450 pages. Price 8s. 6d. Bickerstaff. 1799.

THE investigating botanist is here presented with another portable system of British plants, containing all the species enumerated in the third edition of the Botanical Arrangement, 'together with such additional ones as have been since discovered and ascertained,' with a synopsis of the genera at the head of each class. 'The genera,' our author says, 'are numbered in the same manner as in Reichard's edition of the *Genera Plantarum*,

taram, and the fourteenth edition of the *Systema Vegetabilium*, published by Murray.' The former part of this assertion appears erroneous, the numbers used in this work being those of the *Systema vegetabilium*, which are the same as those of the sixth edition of the *Genera plantarum* and the *Mantissæ plantarum*. 'The Generic and Specific characters are in general translated from the works of Linnæus, and chiefly from the *Systema vegetabilium*,' and, where the plant has not been described by Linnæus, from the authors of our own country, 'with which are occasionally given some additional distinctive marks either included in a parenthesis, or subjoined as an observation. To each species is added an English name, except in the three last orders of the class *Cryptogamia*, where they have been almost universally omitted, because they are mere translations and not properly established.' We wish none had been inserted but those by which they are actually known by the common people. The rest only add to the bulk of all our Floras, nobody ever using them either in writing or conversation; and in the present work they have evidently shortened the account of the situations in which the plants grow. The months are expressed by arabic numerals; but we prefer the names of the months abridged as in all the editions of the *Botanical Arrangement*. The synonyms are chiefly those of the English floristæ, when the names which they give are different from the Linnæan, or from each other. 'To such species as are doubtful natives, a note of interrogation is affixed.' We prefer the asterisk as in Hudson, wishing the mark of interrogation to express any doubt which may exist in the mind of the writer, whether or not the plant intended be the same with that described by the author cited.

In the situation of the genera, the author has so religiously adhered to the old order of things as they stood in 1784, carefully avoiding the alterations introduced by Thunberg, copied by Gmelin, and re-copied by Withering in the third edition of the *Botanical Arrangement*, that he has not ventured to remove the order *Monogamia* from the class *Syngenesia*, though he expressly acknowledges that all the plants of that order seem very properly to be referred to the class *Pentandria*. But in the disposition of species he hardly or unknowingly treads the mazes of innovation. Dr. Withering, in his zeal to enrich the *Botanical arrangement* with all the treasures real or supposed which he found in Gmelin, gives us his new arrangement of the genus *Erica*. In the thirteenth edition of the *Systema naturæ* i. 622. he found the first division of the species to run thus;

'*Antheris simplicibus, muticæ,*'

which he translates

'*Anthers simple, awnless.*'

Our author, implicitly following his guide, adds from Linnæus as translated in the *Botanical arrangement*, with an insertion of

his own between crotchets—'It has the habit (and anthers) of *Andromeda* with the numbers of *Erica*.' Now the passage ought to have been translated,

'*Anthers awnless. Erica muticæ,*

simplex meaning that the antherae had no appendages at the base, and being synonymous with *muticus*. This division Gmelin calls the *Erica muticæ*; the second division, the *Erica aristatæ*; and the third division, the *Erica cristatæ*. Our author's interpolation of 'anthers' is improper, the antherae of *Erica* and *Andromeda* being the same, some species of each genus having awnless, and others awned, antherae.

But to give the reader a more distinct idea of the work, we shall present him with the genus *Viola*, which we select that he may compare it with the account of the same genus, which we extracted from Mr. Symons's synopsis, at p. 22 of this volume.—P. 191.

'1007. VIOLA. Cal. 5-leaved. Cor. 5-petalled, irregular, with a spur behind. Caps. superior, 3-valved, 1-celled.

'1. Stemless.

birta. '1. V. Leaves cordate, piloso-hispid. (Petioles rough with hair, bractes below the middle of the peduncle. CURT.

'*Hairy Violet.* Calcareous soil. P. 3. 4. CURT.

odorata '2. V. Leaves cordate, stolons creeping. (Bractes above the middle of the peduncle. CURT.)

'*Sweet Violet.* Ditch-banks. P. 3. 4. CURT.

palustris. '3. V. Leaves reniform (reniformi-cordate, somewhat convolute).

'*Mossy Violet.* Mossy bogs. P. 4. 5. CURT. 217.

'2. *Caulescent.* (*Stipules entire, lutea.*)

canina. '4. V. Stem, when becoming adult, ascending, leaves oblongo-cordate. (Cal. segments acuminate. CURT.)

'*Dog's Violet.* Hedge-banks. P. 4—6. CURT. 108.

'Var. 2. Much smaller, spur yellowish. DILL. in Ray 364. 5. tab. 24. 1.

lutea. '5. V. Stem ascending, leaves ovato-lanceolate. E. BÖT. *V. canina* var. 3. With.

'*Cream-col. Violet.* Pendarvis. P. 5. E. Bot. 445.

'3. *Caulescent; Stipules pinnatifid; Stigma urceolate.*

tricolor. '6. V. Stem 3-sided, diffuse, leaves oblong, incised.

'Var. 1. *arvensis.* β. Pers. α. Lin. Sp. Hudf.—Leaves ovato-lanceolate, ferrated, calyx rather longer than the corol. PERS.—Cor. white, or yellow-white, with a few purple streaks. WITH. RAY syn. 366. 11.

'— Hedge-banks. A. 5—9. Ger. 854. 4.

'— 2. Cor. blue, or purplish, sometimes with yellow, or white. WITH.

'— Road sides, common. Pet. 37. 8.

'— 3

* — 3. β . Lin. Hudf. 3. With. Cor. of more than 2 colours. STOKES.

* *Pansies*. Ditch-banks. A. 5—9. Curt.

- * 7. V. Stem unbranched, erect, 3-cornered, leaves ciliate (with strong hairs, like an eye-lash), lower cordate, upper lanceolate. (Stipules entire, or toothed.) WITH. V. *grandiflora*. Hudf. V. *lutea grandiflora*. RAY syn. 365. 10. not Lin. *lutea*.

* *Yellow Violet*. Mount. past. P. 5—7. Pet. 57. 10.

- * 8. V. Stem cylindrical, unbranched, leaves orbiculato-cordate, obtusely crenate, ciliate, veined, shining, stipules somewhat palmate. (Flow. large, purple, upper pet. obtusely ovate.) FORSTER. See Symons. *amarua*.
P. 198.

* — Scotland. DICKSON.

This work is divided into two parts, with two title pages, and two indexes, that the reader may bind them up separately, the first volume containing what are commonly called the perfect plants, and the second the class Cryptogamia. T.

ART. III. *Annales de Chimie, &c. Annals of Chemistry. Vol. XXIX.*

(Concluded from page 560.)

Experiments on carbonated hydrogenous Gas; with a View to determine whether Carbon be a simple or a compound Substance. By Mr. William Henry, F.R.S., &c. communicated by Van Mons.—These experiments have already been published in the Phil. Transf. of the Royal Society for 1797, Part 2d.; under which article our readers will find an account of them in Vol. xxviii. of Analyt. Rev. p. 156.

Memoir on the absorption of Oxygen by the simple Earths, and its Influence in the Cultivation of the Soil; by Alex. Fred. Humboldt.—An observation of the mephitic air produced in mines where mineral salt is prepared led the author into a train of experiments for the purpose of ascertaining to what substance the precipitation of the atmospherical oxygen was owing. He exposed pieces of grey argill, in a moist state, under receivers filled with atmospheric air, at the common temperature of the interior of the earth. In three days he found the air of the receivers to have lost from 0.04 to 0.06 of oxygen. After 12 days 0.07 only remained; consequently 0.21 had disappeared: whilst the same portion of atmospheric air, exposed during the same time in contact with spring water, gave 0.27 of oxygen; therefore, had lost only 0.01. Expecting to find the oxygen, thus extricated from the air, combine with the carbon of the argill in the state of carbonic acid, he repeated the experiment with greater care, and thus states its result. ‘3000 parts of atmospheric air were composed of 852 oxygen, 2103 azote, and 45 carbonic acid. The 2460 parts to which this volume was reduced

reduced in 18 days [by exposure to argillaceous earth] consisted of 81 oxygen, 2207 azote, and 172 carbonic acid.' For the composition of the 127 additional parts of carbonic acid here exhibited, he allows, according to the computation of Lavoisier, 35.5 of oxygen. Still, therefore, 735 parts of oxygen appear to have been absorbed; or, in other words, of $\frac{28}{100}$ of oxygen, $\frac{2}{7}$ have lost the gaseous state, and entered into combination with the argill.

The writer next proceeds to relate similar experiments on vegetable soil, in which he found that the blackest and most odoriferous earths decomposed the air with the greatest rapidity. In some of these experiments $\frac{13}{100}$ of oxygen were absorbed in five days. He recommends this process of preparing azote as preferable to any hitherto employed. Alumine, a little moistened, exposed to atmospheric air for the space of six days, deprived it so completely of oxygen, that the diminution of its volume in Fontana's edimeter did not amount to $\frac{1}{100}$ th part. Alumine, perfectly dry, he found to exercise no action on atmospheric air. Extending these experiments to different kinds of earth, he found that alumine, barytes, and lime, were the only earths which, when moistened, possessed the property of thus absorbing oxygen: and these earths he found to exhibit this property in the same degree, whether pure or carbonated. He observes that caloric increases considerably the action of these earths upon air. We find no solution at all satisfactory as to the cause of the necessity of humidity to the exercise of this action.

The author enters at some length into the application of these observations to the phenomena of the vegetable system.

'I have observed,' says he, 'that, in general, the blackest, the most fat and odoriferous vegetable earths decompose the atmospheric air with the greatest rapidity. But I have also observed others, which, though more poor, and possessing, apparently, less carbon, do not absorb oxygen in less proportion. If the fertility of a soil correspond with the power which it possesses of absorbing oxygen, this fertility does not depend on the *quantity* of acidifiable bases, on the quantity of lime, of alumine, of carbon, of hydrogen, of azote, which is to be found in it; but on the *state of combination* in which these bases exist, and which renders them more or less capable of decomposing the atmosphere. This consideration explains to us the reason why the chemist can seldom satisfy the views of the agriculturist, and why the most rigid analysis assigns the same elements to two earths the most widely different in fertility.'

We are informed that Cit. Candole (of Geneva) has observed the most striking effects of oxygen on vegetable economy, in some comparative experiments on seeds sown in oxydated earth; 'effects, of which he is about to give an account himself in a work on vegetable physiology, on which he is laboring with great zeal.' The hydrogen combination with oxygen in different

different substances is weakened by the affinity which the earthy elements are perpetually exercising upon this oxygen, unites itself with carbon, and forms those *oxydated carbonates* of hydrogen, which appear to afford the most abundant nourishment to the roots of vegetables.

‘ Perhaps the whole theory of manures is founded on this principle, and we must refer their action principally to the nature of their acidifiable bases, that is, to their property of decomposing water and atmospheric air.’

In the latter part of his memoir, the author undertakes to illustrate the phenomenon of the natural production of nitre, and to answer the questions—‘ Why is nitre produced more abundantly on argillaceous and calcareous, than on quartzose, earths? and, Why do only the inferior strata of the air, those in immediate contact with the earth, deposit the nitric acid?’ It is obvious that the former of these questions may be sufficiently answered, by observing that quartzose earth does not furnish potash for the composition: but we shall give our author’s solution.

The immediate atmosphere of these argillaceous surfaces, he observes, owing to their strong affinity for the oxygenous part of the air, contains from 0.50 to 0.60 of oxygen. The azote, which is at the same time set at liberty by the decomposition of the atmospheric air, meeting with this body of free oxygen, enters into a new combination with it in that particular proportion which constitutes nitric acid.

‘ The atmospheric electricity appears to operate this reunion; for stormy seasons are the most favorable to the production of nitre, those especially in which positive electricity passes eight or ten times a day to the negative state.’

Our author does not stop here; but, having given us his theory of the production of the nitrous acid, he goes on to account for the formation of the potash, which he would ascribe to the union of the hydrogen, set at liberty from the water, with the azote disengaged from the air. This, indeed, he acknowledges to be a mere conjecture; and we must be better acquainted than we are at present with the constitution of potash before we can allow it, even as a conjecture, to deserve much attention. On the whole, this is an interesting and valuable paper; and is calculated, we think, to lead to considerable discoveries in the physiology of the vegetable kingdom.

Abstract of a Memoir read at the National Institute, on the Nature of the Succinic Acid; by Cit. Guyton.—Cit. Guyton’s experiments confirm the vegetable origin of this acid; and show that it belongs to the class of those which are easily destroyed by a new combination of their base, resolving themselves into carbonic acid gas, carbonated hydrogen gas, and carbon.

Annali di Chimica, &c. Burgnatelli’s Annals of Chemistry, 1798. Vol. xvth: extracted by Cit. Van Mons.—Our limits

will not permit us to enter into a particular examination of any but original articles: nor, if it were otherwise, does the one now before us present much which would call for a minute detail. We shall only notice, therefore, one of the papers here cited, entitled, 'Reflexions on the difference between oxygen and thermoxygen, by Burgnatelli.'

'The author understands by thermoxygen, the base of pure air in the concrete state. This base is not simple, but composed of oxygen, and concrete caloric. This caloric is different from that which holds thermoxygen in the state of gas, and which Burgnatelli calls *radiant or solvent (fondant) caloric*.'—
'Oxygen is the basis of pure air entirely deprived of its caloric.'

Acids appear upon his system to exhibit the principal combination of oxygen; metals, (in the state in which we term them oxyds) of thermoxygen.

'Gaseous thermoxygen always disengages *solvent* caloric in passing from the elastic to the concrete state; but, as it requires little caloric for its expansion, it disengages but little in its condensation.'—'Muriatic acid, distilled upon the oxyd of manganese, is not superoxygenated, as has been hitherto believed, but is combined with thermoxygen.'—'The decomposition [of thermoxygen] is rendered very sensible by comparing the caloric separated during the combustion of oxygenous, and of thermoxygenous substances in oxygenated muriatic gas. Let the bulb of a thermometer be plunged in essential oil, as of bergamotte for instance, and let the bulb of another be covered with gold-leaf; after suspending these two instruments, thus prepared, in vessels containing equal volumes of oxygenated muriatic gas, it will be found that the mercury of that with the covering of oil has risen from 18 to 36 degrees, while the other will hardly have ascended 1 or 2 degrees. Nevertheless, the gold condenses more gas than the oil.'

This chemist would account for the dissimilarity between atmospheric air and nitrous gas, by supposing the azote of the former to be united with thermoxygen, whilst that of the latter is combined with oxygen.

The author announces a sequel to this memoir; 'for which,' says the reporter, 'we reserve the numerous reflexions which his observations have suggested to us.'

News from Egypt, relative to the Sciences, extracted from the Correspondence of the Institute of Cairo with the National Institute of France; by Cit. Fourcroy.—Most of the nations of Europe are indebted for the original seeds of their civilization to the victorious arms of hostile invaders. If our progress in social arts, and our experience in political improvements might have encouraged us to hope that we ought to be now capable of attaining the good by means less objectionable, the reflexion will at least dispose us to look with the comprehensive eye of philosophy, rather than through the delusive medium of party prejudice, on the great events which at present agitate the world; and, by aid of that analogy which history affords, to trace them to a happier

happier ultimate issue than their immediate consequences seem to augur.

The progress of General Buonaparte in the East has already attached a great portion of the public curiosity; and even a detail of the literary labors which have begun to occupy his attention there, and which compose the subject of this paper, has already found its way to us through the channel of the public prints. It appears that a National Institute has been established at Cairo, consisting of four classes; viz. of *Mathematics*, of *Physics*, of *Political Economy*, and of *Literature and the Arts*; each composed of twelve members. We could not expect to find announced in the report here given of their eight first sittings, any new improvements of art or speculations of science. Their attention was chiefly turned to subjects of practical importance, suggested by the immediate and peculiar necessities of their new situation.

Extracts from a Letter of Professor Trommsdorff to Cit. Van Mons.—‘One of my friends,’ says this writer, ‘has found that pure calcareous earth is capable of being crystallised. It forms slender needles. This discovery adds new strength to my proposal for classing this earth with alkaline substances.’ Another of his friends had ascertained by a great number of experiments, that all yellow phosphorus contains carbon; and recommends the purification of it by diluted oxygenated muriatic acid.—Prof. T. thinks he has reasons for concluding the zoonic acid to be identical with the sebatic.

New Experiments on the pretended Conversion of Water into Azotic Gas; By J. R. Deiman, A. Paets Van Troostwyk, A. Lauwerenburgh & Vrolik.—This paper contains a refutation of the experiments lately published by Cit. Wurzer, in a memoir on the apparent basis of Azotic gas, whereby the author attempted to prove, that water being made to undergo, in small quantity, the instantaneous action of a red heat, was converted into azotic gas. This opinion had been already advanced by M. Wiegand; and his experiments in support of it had been already confuted by the writers before us, in demonstrating that the gas thus produced was to be ascribed to the penetration of the external air, and that it did not manifest itself in experiments wherein this was cautiously excluded. Our authors, however, see reason to apprehend that Citizen Wurzer was unaware of this previous controversy on the subject of his memoir, at the time when he wrote it. The experiments of this latter chemist were made with an apparatus consisting of two hemispheres of copper, carefully jointed together, and kept close by iron wire. The upper part of these was made to receive two tubes of copper, one for the purpose of introducing the water, and the other for that of giving passage to the gas. Citizen Wurzer relates that, of twenty-six cubic inches of gas, obtained by means of this apparatus,

apparatus, two only were absorbed by lime water, and twenty-four were pure azotic gas. The authors of the present article reply to this statement by describing their repetition of the experiment with an apparatus contrived on a principle exactly similar, but with a stricter precaution against the access of external air; the result of which did not exhibit the least particle of azotic gas.

Extract of the Notes added to the Translation of Dr. T. Reid's Essay on the Nature and Treatment of Pulmonary Consumption, by C. L. Dumas, Professor of the School of Medicine at Montpellier.—These notes illustrate, by several experiments on dogs, the respective effects of the oxygenous and carbonic acid gases in producing, the former a sthenic, the latter an asthenic, diathesis of the lungs: and the translator objects to his author's prescription of emetics, that they produce a dangerous irritation in the first of these species of pulmonary phthisis.

Abstract of a Sketch of the Fabrication of Alum in the Department De l'Ourte; by G. J. Christian, of Flone.—The application of scientific principles to the commercial arts has, in every instance in which it has been skilfully experimented, been attended with such happy effects, as to afford the pleasing hope that, here at least, that dread of innovation which has been so long the *defensive* armour of ignorance, and (wherever it could be so employed) the *offensive* armour of despotism, will at length, by its disappearance, allow philosophy to congratulate herself on the practical utility of her researches, in equalising the capacities, and multiplying the resources, of social enjoyment. The general outlines of the process by which alum is procured, viz. the decomposition of the ore by exposure to the air and to heat, its lixiviation, and the cristallisation of the salt, are sufficiently known. The writer gives in this article a detailed account of the mode in which the operations for preparing this substance are conducted at Flone, 'as being,' says he, 'the most accurate and the most perfect;' and points out in the course of it several particulars, in which a juster attention to the natural principles of the process has given it an advantage over others. He promises to explain several improvements of which the manufacture of alum is capable, in an essay which he has in preparation.

On certain properties of Strontian and Barytes, by Citizen Vauquelin.—The results of the experiments here related exhibit to us some new and striking properties of these two earths, and strengthen the analogy which they had already been observed to bear towards substances of the alkaline class. Two hundred parts of strontian and sixty of flix, mixed together in the state of powder, and exposed to a violent heat for the space of one hour in a crucible of platina, combined in a grey, sonorous mass, whose parts adhered pretty strongly together. When pulverised,

pulverised, it manifested a slight causticity: but neither in powder nor in the mass, did its union with water produce that heat or swelling which take place with pure strontian. Its powder, when boiled with water, was dissolved in less quantity than pure strontian. The taste of the liquor was slightly alkaline: it did not crystallise. The same powder, moistened with water, was entirely dissolved by muriatic acid; and the solution afforded, on evaporation, a very abundant residue, which, washed and dried, presented all the characters of silex. The nitric and acetous acids produced the same effect. Five parts of pure strontian, finely pulverised, and one of alumine, were treated together with water; and in the height of the ebullition, the liquor was filtrated. Much remained undissolved. The filtrated liquor had a taste slightly alkaline; but did not crystallise. Saturated with muriatic acid, and then treated with ammoniac, it gave a small quantity of flaky matter, which proved to be alumine. 'Strontian has, therefore, the property of favoring the solution of alumine in water; but, what is more remarkable is, that alumine on the other hand renders a great part of the strontian insoluble, since not a tenth part was dissolved of what ought to have been; and it is probable that, if there had been a greater quantity of alumine, not a particle of strontian would have been found in the solution.'

One hundred and fifty parts of caustic barytes were mixed with fifty of silex, and the whole exposed to a strong heat for an hour and a half in a crucible of platina. The matter of the result had not that coherence which the strontian had shewn in a similar experiment: it gave no heat on the addition of water. The nitric, muriatic and acetous acids dissolved it entirely; and all the solutions yielded on the addition of ammoniac a flaky precipitate. The substance afforded by these solutions on evaporation, displayed all the properties of silex. 'It is not to be doubted then that barytes has, like strontian, the faculty of combining with silex, and of rendering it soluble in even the weakest acids.' On dissolving in water a mixture of barytes and alumine, and treating it as he had before treated the mixture of strontian and alumine, a similar phenomenon occurred: that is, 'there remained a portion of alumine and barytes undissolved, and which appeared to be in intimate combination.'

'It appears, then, that when barytes and alumine meet in suitable proportions, they unite and form a combination insoluble in water; but when the barytes exceed this proportion, it dissolves the new combination. The same effects take place in strontian and alumine; and I should not be astonished if this property extended even to the alkalis; for if, in precipitating alumine by potash, a little too much be added, it always retains some traces of it, however carefully it be washed. Moreover, have we not the example of glass being soluble, or insoluble, according

cording to its proportion of alkali; and, what is yet more striking, that of the presence of potash in hard stones, whence no mechanical means are able to separate it?

By boiling a solution of barytes with olive oil, our author obtained a true soap, wanting only the property of being soluble in water. To trace still further the analogy of barytes to alkaline substances, Citizen V. extended his experiments to the examination of its effect upon animal matter; and, mixing two parts of ox-liver with one of barytes diluted with water, he boiled them together. The result afforded him a great quantity of ammoniac, and the matter of the liver was transformed into a kind of coagulated magma, red, insoluble in water, and appearing, by many experiments, to be the combination of a fat substance with barytes.

We consider this as a valuable paper; and not only so for the immediate information which it affords, but in a more important degree, for the improvement which it promises to introduce into our classification of alkaline substances. There is hardly any part of the chemical arrangement of bodies which has hitherto been directed by principles so loose and unsystematical as that of the alkalis; and the vague theories to which a sense of this defect had begun to give rise, only served to increase and extend the difficulty. It is rather to the generalisation of the class, by following that course of experimental analogy which the able author before us has so well pursued, that we must look for the first advances towards those abstract principles of scientific arrangement on which the true philosophical improvement of the system depends.

Experiments on the Congelation of different Liquids by an artificial Cold of 40° below 0 of Réaumur, by Citizens Fourcroy and Vauquelin.—The substances employed to produce artificial cold in these experiments were muriat of lime and snow, in the proportion of about eight of the former to six of the latter, and the greatest degree of cold obtained by their mixture was 43°—0. A degree considerably less than this was sufficient for the congelation of Mercury. Our authors procured crystals of mercury, of an octahedral form. The gradual refrigeration of ammoniac to 33°—0, produced its crystallisation: by lowering its temperature rapidly to 38° or 40°, it was reduced to a kind of jelly, or glue, and lost almost entirely its smell. Ether was frozen and crystallised very regularly at 35°—0; but, what is remarkable, the same reduction of temperature was insufficient to the congelation of alcohol. These chemists attempted in vain to liquefy, or congeal, sulphurous acid gas, muriatic acid gas, and sulphurated hydrogenous gas; and they attribute their failure to the very great and sudden condensation of the gases, amounting to $\frac{3}{4}$ of their volume, which made the mercury in their vessels fall more rapidly than they were able to supply it.

Experiments

Experiments on Artificial Cold, by Citizen Guyton.—Citizen Guyton remarks that mercury, when frozen, displays an adherence to glass, to which it attaches itself, with the preservation of its metallic lustre. If this be a fact, we should be inclined to class it amongst electrical, rather than among chemical, phenomena; since it would be counter to all our known laws of the affinity of aggregation, to refer it to the latter. The chief part of this paper relates to the theory of frigorific substances.

Extract from a Letter of Citizen Van Mons to Citizen Guyton, on Artificial Cold.—By a mixture of muriate of lime and fixed caustic soda, the author has augmented the production of artificial cold to 53° .

‘All the liquids which I have by me are congealed by this great cold. Saline solutions deposit their salts, some in powder, others in crystals of particular forms. Gold, silver, tin, lead, lose their malleability, and become almost brittle; a quill is broken like glass; salts, separated from their water of crystallisation, are melted at a temperature of from 20 to 25° .’

Account of some particular Substances found in Animal Matter, treated with Nitric Acid, by Citizen Welter.—In attempting, several years since, to obtain oxalic acid by treating silk with nitric acid, the writer was surprised that the result of his operation did not afford him a particle of it: but he obtained an unknown salt, silky, and of the color of gold, acting like gunpowder on the approach of burning charcoal. Further to investigate this matter, he repeatedly distilled a mixture of six parts of nitric acid and one of silk. The process afforded him oxalic acid, and also crystals of a golden color, as fine as silk, and which detonated like gun powder. These crystals were soluble in water and alcohol, and were reproduced by cold. Oxygenated muriatic acid destroyed their colour. In another experiment, by treating silk with nitric acid, he obtained, besides oxalic acid, yellow crystals, extremely bitter, and without any acidity, ‘volatile in the fire, and indestructible by concentrated nitric acid, which only took away their color, which was restored by washing in water.’ These crystals, he conceives, to be composed of nitric acid and a peculiar substance, which he would call *amer*. He fancies that he obtained this *amer* in combination with another new substance, from some ox-flesh; but the conduct, as well as the relation, of the whole of his experiments seems so inaccurate, that, though we deem them well worthy observation, we can place very little reliance on them in the form in which they at present appear.

Observations on the Muriatic Acid, by Citizen Tassaert.—Citizen Tassaert has taken more trouble than we think was necessary to refute M. Girtanner’s hypothesis of hydrogen being the basis of the muriatic acid. Whatever may be thought of the conjecture, it is very evident, that the hydrogen in M. G.’s experiments resulted merely from the decomposition of water.

New Experiments on the Fusibility of mixed Earths by Means of their Action on each other; by Citizen Guyton.

Extract from a Letter of Citizen Brugnatelli to Citizen Van Mons.—The most important article of information here is the account of a peculiar resin obtained by distilling nitric acid upon indigo, which the writer conceives may be serviceable to the arts. Its solution in alcohol is of a deep yellow color, and imparts the same to the skin and nails, whence water will not remove it.

ART. IV. *Elements of Chemistry. Translated from the German.*

By Joseph Francis Jacquin, Professor of Chemistry and Botany at Vienna; Fellow of the Linnean Society of London; and Member of several Academies of Science, Agriculture, &c. 8vo. 427 pages. Price 7s. 6d. West. 1799.

SUCH have been the changes lately introduced in the language as well as the science itself of chemistry, that the older elementary books are become of scarcely any utility to the modern student. From their perusal he can neither acquire a just knowledge of the terms which he is to employ, nor be properly instructed respecting the various phenomena displayed by the different substances on which he is to operate. The facts and the language by which they are to be explained must equally be derived from publications of a much more recent date, and even of these we have but very few that are well calculated to convey such information as is necessary for those who are entering on the study of the science.

We therefore consider the present as a very valuable and useful work, and one which, from the accuracy and simplicity, as well as the ease and familiarity, with which it details the general principles and truths of chemical knowledge, seems well designed for the instruction of those who are desirous of an acquaintance with the *elements of chemistry*.

A passage or two will, however, afford the reader a much better idea of the author's plan and manner, than we can possibly give by words.

P. 36.—IV. OF THE MATTER OF LIGHT.

§ LXXXII. Though philosophers are already, in a great measure, acquainted with the physical properties of light and the laws by which it acts, yet our knowledge, respecting its chemical properties and composition, is still very limited, and our whole science, on this subject, consists merely in the knowledge of a few facts.

§ LXXXIII. Nevertheless it can be proved by experiments, that the matter of light is a fluid of a peculiar kind, impenetrable and elastic; that its gravity, like that of caloric, is not ascertainable by experiments; that, in common with all other fluids, it possesses chemical affinities, by which it combines with different substances, and

and solves compounds, and that it is itself separated from its combination.

‘ § LXXXIV. The most remarkable change produced in bodies, in consequence of their combining with the matter of light, is that of colour; and it is highly probable, that this external property of bodies is chiefly owing to that substance.

‘ § LXXXV. The action of the matter of light is most conspicuous upon organized bodies, which are not matured without its influence; and it is also certain, that plants derive from light their green colour.

‘ § LXXXVI. Bodies which produce light, though their temperature be not increased, are termed phosphorescent. Several do not obtain this property but when exposed to light for a considerable time, and lose it again by degrees, when removed into the dark.

‘ § LXXXVII. The following queries remain to be solved respecting the matter of light:

‘ 1. Is the matter of light a simple or compound body?

‘ 2. In the first case, is it a body existing *per se*, or is it always a constituent part of caloric?

‘ 3. In the latter case, is caloric a constituent part of light?

‘ 4. In either case, how far does its co-operation and influence extend in producing the phenomena of heat?’

An example of the manner in which particular substances are treated may likewise be useful. As a short article, we select that of the carbonate of soda.

P. 103.—‘ XXIV. OF CARBONATE OF SODA.

‘ § CCXCVII. Carbonate of soda, mild or aerated soda, aerated fixed mineral alkali, is a perfect neutral salt, consisting of the carbonic acid and pure or caustic soda. In Hungary, Egypt, Persia, the East Indies and China, it is found ready formed on the surface of the earth; likewise in a great many mineral waters, and on old walls. But, as this native carbonate of soda is never completely saturated with the carbonic acid, it is necessary to have recourse to art, to obtain it in that state. This salt is likewise formed by the direct combination of its constituent parts; and, indirectly, by the decomposition of other neutral salts; and by the lixiviation of the ashes of plants growing near the sea.

‘ § CCXCVIII. The completely saturated carbonate of soda has rhomboidal crystals, which represent an aggregation of scales. On exposure to the atmosphere, it loses its water of crystallization and effloresces. Fire acts upon it in the same manner as upon carbonate of pot-ash. Its taste is urinous, but less acrid than that of mild potash. It changes the blue juices of vegetables green.

‘ § CCXCIX. This salt requires two parts of cold water for perfect saturation, but only an equal quantity of boiling water. Hence, it readily crystallizes on the cooling of the lixivium; the crystals, however, will be more beautiful if the evaporation be carried on slowly.

‘ § CCC. Acids and vitrifiable earths have the same effect upon carbonate of soda as upon carbonate of pot-ash, except that the glass,

produced in the latter case, is more durable, and fuses with greater facility.

‘ § ccc. Carbonate of soda is decomposed by quicklime and pure ponderous earth, in the same manner as carbonate of pot-ash; and pure or caustic soda may be obtained according to the same method, and by the same process, that we obtain caustic pot-ash; and pure or caustic soda differs from mild soda, for the same reason that mild pot-ash differs from caustic.

‘ § cccii. The composition of the fixed caustic alkalis, notwithstanding the numerous experiments made on this subject, remains as yet obscure; and we are still obliged to consider them as simple bodies, although it be very probable that they are composed of different elements. Some modern chemists suspect that nitrogen constitutes one of their general principles.’

The natures of different substances of the animal and vegetable kingdoms are explained with great precision and clearness. From the former we shall present the reader with a passage.

P. 342.—‘ CXXVIII. OF EGGS.

‘ § mxiv. A bird's egg, when minutely examined, appears to consist of five parts; 1, the shell; 2, the pellicle; 3, the white; 4, the bread; 5, the yellow or yolk. The shell is composed of calcareous earth and phosphate of lime, united by an animal gluten. It is very difficult therefore to dissolve an egg-shell directly in concentrated acids, but if these be diluted and digested upon it, the solution is perfect, and the gluten is separated, and forms a distinct stratum.

‘ § mxv. White of egg agrees in its chemical properties with the serum of blood and the cheesy part of milk. It changes the syrup of violets green, and putrefies in a short time when left to itself. At the temperature of boiling water it becomes a gelatinous mass, which, by a continued moderate heat, or in the open air, dries into a transparent corneous substance. If this operation be performed in close vessels, on a water bath, we obtain an insipid phlegm which speedily putrefies. When distilled by an intenser heat, it affords carbonic acid gas, hydrogen gas, an empyreumatic oil, and ammoniac. The residuum is a coal, of which the ashes contain phosphate of lime and soda.

‘ § mxvi. White of egg, if recent, is soluble in water, but insoluble when hard. It coagulates in all acids, and, if the coagulum be separated by filtration, we obtain, on evaporating the remaining liquid, a neutral salt, formed of the acid employed, and soda; alcohol likewise coagulates the white of egg.

‘ § mxvii. The yolk consists principally of white of egg, combined with a fixed animal oil and some jelly. Hence it is partly soluble in water, with which it forms a kind of vegetable emulsion. It hardens on exposure to fire, but becomes merely a friable mass, from which, when gently torrefied, we may express the oily substance termed oil of eggs; which is similar to an inspissated fixed vegetable oil, but becomes rancid in a short time. What remains after expression is the coagulable part of the yolk. The yolk of
eggs

eggs is partly coagulated by acids and alcohol. It affords by dry distillation the products of all animal bodies.

‘§ XXVIII. The pellicle or membrane of the egg agrees with the fibrous part of blood. As for the tread, it only differs from the white of egg by its greater consistence.’

After this account of the work, it is only necessary for us to observe, that the translator appears to have performed his task with fidelity and attention. In a few instances we have indeed found him to make use of *oxyded* instead of *oxydated*, when treating on the subject of the calcination of metals.

ART. V. *A Second Walk through Wales, by the Rev. Richard Warner, of Bath, in August and September 1798.* 8vo. 365 pages, (with two plates). Price 8s. Bath, Cruttwell; London, Dilly. 1799.

WE are glad that the gratification which Mr. Warner received in his first Walk through Wales has prompted him to repeat his rambles, for a more lively and good-humoured traveller we scarcely ever accompanied. In his present excursion we observe that Mr. W. has indulged his love for antiquarian lore somewhat more freely than in his former one: scarcely does he cross the Severn but he is all over dust with the rubbish of the ruins at Caerleon, the inhabitants of which place do not appear to have cultivated any similar taste, for it seems that within these three years the town has been despoiled of two gateways, probably Norman; and, Mr. W. tells us that, within a still shorter period, a circumstance occurred ‘which considerably detracts from the classical character of the Caerleonites.’ Some workmen, on digging for the foundation of a warehouse, struck upon a mass of fragments of ancient masonry, capitals, shafts, pedestals, &c. &c. &c.; the owner was made acquainted with the circumstance, and was recommended to prosecute the discovery, as it might possibly throw light on the history of the town; he went to the excavation, looked at the remains with perfect indifference, and coolly observing that “these’em sort of things had nothing to do with his coal speculation,” ordered the workmen to cover them up.

On entering into Glamorganshire, our tourist bends his steps to Caerphilly, the eventful history of whose castle occupies many interesting pages. The era of its erection is uncertain: that it should have been built by the Welsh princes is improbable; Mr. Warner observes, very justly, that they had neither ability nor leisure to effect so stupendous a work. He conjectures, with some plausibility, that a castle was originally erected at Caerphilly, at the time when Robert Fitz-hamon with his twelve dependent adventurers, took possession of Glamorganshire in the year 1090. What was obtained by violence it was necessary to secure by fortresses of uncommon strength. The old

Norman castle, however, was dismantled in 1217, and although it was repaired by John Bruce in 1221, yet, says Mr. W., the prodigious size of the present structure (which is reputed to have been sufficiently large to accommodate a garrison of twenty thousand men) prohibits the idea of its being the work of a subject; various reasons dispose him to be of opinion, that the structure, as we now see it, with its enormous towers, bastions and walls, was built by Edward I. the conqueror of Wales.

The vale of Glamorgan is the garden of South Wales; sheltered from the blasts of the north 'by an undulating chain of lofty hills,' it bears every appearance, says Mr. Warner, of the most productive fertility; with these advantages, he expected to have found the husbandry of the vale of Glamorganshire in a state of comparative perfection; our traveller was more disappointed than we are on learning that the farmers exhaust their land by a merciless rotation of crops. We have frequently observed, that in those parts of the country where land yields, as it were, spontaneous riches, farms undergo a careless and penurious cultivation; on the contrary, where land is poor and hungry, the utmost attention is bestowed on its management. Man, Dr. Johnson says, has a natural propensity to indolence. The activity and exertion to be expected from farmers must always bear a proportion to the urgency of the stimulus which operates to excite them. On poor lands, that stimulus is presented in the certainty that deficient crops will result from deficient culture. On rich lands, farmers are not thus stimulated; they too commonly rely with idle and presumptuous confidence on an exuberant, inexhaustible, and untired fertility of the soil. Mr. Warner tells us, that the Glamorganshire farmer will force his land to the following rotation: first year, wheat; second year, barley; third, oats; and fourth, barley and clover, and repay its labors, perhaps, with only one scanty covering of manure! Is it wonderful that, pursuing an agricultural system thus infamously bad, farmers of from sixty to a hundred pounds a year are miserably poor! that their diet is of the coarsest kind, and that their cellars seldom afford a drop of ale to comfort them after the labours of the day! We were much pleased to learn that, although the state of husbandry and the situation of the small farmers be thus unfavorable, the peasantry are strong, and cheerful, and well fed: the cottages are commonly let for fifteen or twenty shillings a year, and to each of them is attached a small plot of ground for the cultivation of esculent vegetables.

Our traveller, being now near the sea shore, visited the cliff, for the purpose of remarking its stratification, and of entering into a natural cavern of considerable extent. Among the neighbouring villages it is a common practice to gather the rock-samphire

samphire which grows abundantly along the ledges and down the perpendicular sides of the cliff: the samphire-gatherer plants an iron crow bar firmly into the earth, at the brow of the rock; to this bar he fixes a stout rope, which he takes in his hand, and then boldly drops himself over the head of the rock till he reaches the crevices where the samphire is found. That terrible accidents should attend this 'dreadful trade,' cannot excite surprise: Mr. Warner has given us an account of one from the relation of a gentleman who was his guide through Glamorganshire, which is so full of horror, that, to use a vulgar, but very expressive, phrase, "it made our blood run cold:"

P. 73.—'A few years since, one of these adventurers went alone to the spot we are speaking of, to follow his accustomed trade. He fixed his crow bar, attached the cord to it, and descended the face of the rock. In the course of a few minutes he reached a ledge, which gradually retiring inwards, stood some feet within the perpendicular, and over which the brow of the cliff beetled consequently in the same proportion. Busily employed in gathering samphire, and attentive only to the object of profit, the rope suddenly dropped from his hand, and after a few oscillations, but all without his reach, became stationary at the distance of four or five feet from him. Nothing could exceed the horror of his situation:—Above was a rock of sixty or seventy feet in height, whose projecting brow would defy every attempt of his to ascend it, and prevent every effort of others to render him assistance. Below was a perpendicular descent of one hundred feet, terminated by ragged rocks, over which the surge was breaking with dreadful violence. Before him was the rope, his only hope of safety, his only means of return; but hanging at such a tantalizing distance, as baffled all expectation of his reaching it. Our adventurer was, fortunately, young, active, resolute; he therefore quickly determined what plan to adopt; collecting all his powers into one effort, and springing boldly from the ledge, he threw himself into the dreadful vacuum, and dashed at the suspended rope. The desperate exertion was successful; he caught the cord, and in a short time was once more at the top of the rock.'

Mr. Warner, in this second peregrination, revisited many scenes which he surveyed before. The beauties of Hafôd, which our pedestrian had described in so lively a manner, again lay in his route, and invited his steps: the ludicrous adventure which befel him last year at Devil's-Bridge, was the prelude to one of a very different complexion which befel him now: one of a most serious and fearful nature. One morning Mr. W. left his companions at the inn busily employed in writing, and went to the bridge in order to take a drawing of the scenery; the spot whence he had the arch and gulph in a good point of view, consisting of slate rock, or loose laminae, giving way with the least pressure, and sliding over one another:

P. 156.—'Its descent is very precipitous, measuring at least ninety feet, and at the bottom a resistless torrent boils through deep natural

cauldrons, formed in the rock by the constant attrition of the waters. I had crept with some difficulty to a spot on this bank, and was preparing my sketch-book, when the faithless slate gave way, and in a few seconds hurried me down the horrible declivity fourteen or fifteen feet. The gulph was now immediately below, and seemed ready to receive me, and no human means appeared sufficient to prevent my inevitable destruction. One moment only was allowed for recollection and exertion. Providentially J——n's stick was in my right hand; darting this, therefore, into the loose fragments at my feet, with that uncommon energy which desperation gives, the iron spike made its way into the firm ground, and afforded a support for my right foot. Thus partially secured, with my left hand I soon worked for myself a seat in the declivity, by removing the loose shale; here I placed myself, and then fixing the stick again firmly into the ground, I repeated my labours with my left hand, and thus by degrees *worked myself* up to the spot from which I had originally slipped.

‘I trust I was not ungrateful for this instance of providential protection, in an extremity so desperate. My powers of reflection, however, did not return to me immediately, and even when I went back to the inn, horror was so strongly marked in my countenance, that my companions, for a few moments, scarcely recollected their brother tourist.’

We were very highly gratified with the account which is given us of the extensive agricultural improvements which are introduced by the hospitable and patriotic proprietor of Hafôd: Colonel Johnes is likely to alter, in the space of a few years, the very face of the country around him. He has in his own hands a farm of nearly five thousand acres, and pursues a system of agriculture, where science and taste, says Mr. W., go hand in hand: his plantations are immense, and the colonel increases them by the *annual* addition of about three hundred thousand trees: last year he greatly exceeded this average, having planted of larch, birch, mountain-ash, alder, beech, and wych-elm, the immense number of 597,200 trees! His mode of enclosing is laborious and expensive, but, to shew that it is eventually profitable, we are told, that he has cultivated ground, originally not worth more than half a crown an acre, which might now be let for forty shillings an acre. After having enclosed, commonly with a stone wall, and drained the track of land which is intended for cultivation, the colonel lays on from two to three hundred bushels of lime per acre, which is slacked by water carried to the heaps, and ploughed in as soon as possible:

P. 152.—‘He begins ploughing before Christmas, and by June gets the land into very fine order, when he sows turnips, throwing in at the same time a quantity of powdered oil-cake, a manure which he finds of great advantage to the ground. These turnips are fed off by sheep folded upon them. He next plants potatoes, taking care to give the land another good coat of manure, and afterwards lays it down with oats or barley to grass, throwing in twenty pounds of different seeds, and a bushel and a half of rye-grass per acre. His object in this system is to lay down his land to grass as soon as possible, rightly judging that
a grazing

a grazing farm is more profitable than any other, as well as more picturesque. In pursuance of this plan, his present stock of cattle is very large: two hundred head of cattle, and from two to three thousand sheep, which will be gradually considerably increased. With respect to the last-mentioned animal, he has tried many experiments; the result of which is, that the best sheep for that country is produced from the *Cheviot breed*, crossed with the Ryeland rams.

The vale of Clwyd, Mr. W. says, seems to be cultivated with more care than most other parts of Wales, and he had the pleasure to observe, that the excellence of the agriculture was rewarded by the general appearance of an abundant harvest. Mr. W.'s remark is quite correct, that the vale of Clwyd is too extensive to present a picturesque appearance: that particular parts are very highly so, is unquestionable; but viewed from any eminence, which, like Denbigh castle, overlooks the vale almost from one extremity to the other, we perfectly remember to have been struck with the confusion and insignificance of the objects before us.

From Denbigh our pedestrian and his companions proceed to Holywell: it is pleasing to know that the celebrated spring, which for centuries was dedicated to superstitious uses, has of late years been subservient to more valuable purposes: within little more than a mile from its appearance out of the rock to its blending with the Chester channel, this torrent works one large corn-mill; four cotton manufactories; a copper and brass work; hammer mills, where copper, brewing, and other vessels are manufactured; a mill for drawing copper-wire; a calcinary of calamine; and a building for making brass. Here we may mention, once for all, that the curiosity of our travellers, ever alive, suffered nothing to escape notice which had any claim to the attention of naturalists, philosophers, or economists. Mr. W. viewed the immense mines at Holywell with the searching eye of a mineralogist; we learn from him that the products of the level mine are limestone, burned for manure and building; chert, or petrosilex, used in the potteries; lead ore, of which there are two sorts: *galena*, or potter's lead ore, and the *steel ore*, which contains a proportion of silver; calamine, an ore of zinc, which combined with copper (in proportion of one part to three of copper,) forms brass; and blende, or black-jack, another ore of zinc, containing that metal in combination with iron and sulphur, and used for the same purpose as the calamine. We are sorry to feel the necessity of repeating an observation which Mr. Warner made, wherever he visited a mine or manufactory, that the desolating war in which we have so long been engaged, has deadened all their operations: of the substances just mentioned, that which is most valuable and found in the largest quantities in the Holywell level mine, is the lead ore, the price of which has been reduced

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by the war from thirteen and fifteen pounds per ton to seven and eight! the consequence is, that the miner can scarcely contrive to exist: his profits are not merely inadequate to the peril which he is exposed to and the labor which he undergoes, but they are barely sufficient for his maintenance.

To those who are acquainted with Mr. W's first "Walk" through the land of Ancient Britons, it is superfluous to say, that he is not unmindful of the various manners which are observable in different parts of the country. The mountains of Merionethshire seem to have secured to its inhabitants a great deal of their antient and original character; but even here may be anticipated a speedy adulteration of that simplicity which is so interesting, from the easy intercourse with these children of nature now afforded to travellers, by means of turnpike roads, which are excellent throughout North Wales. Mr. W. tells us that at present the scenery and manners are perfectly Highlandish, and the national language so general, that scarcely a cottager was able to speak a single word of English: he had occasion to remark, that on the north-west coast of Wales, much less English is spoken than in any other parts. In Flintshire, on the contrary, the use of the national tongue is almost superseded: the English language is taught in schools, and, in some degree, enforced on the children, for if, in their colloquial intercourse, one of the scholars be detected in speaking a Welsh word, he is immediately degraded with the *Welsh lump*, that is, a large piece of lead is fastened to a string and suspended round the neck of the offender. This mark of ignominy has had the desired effect: Mr. Warner justly observes that, however the pride of the Englishman may be gratified by so great a compliment paid to his vernacular tongue, the philosopher will lose much by the amalgamation which is rapidly taking place in the language and manners of Wales with those of our own country.

In making any general remarks on the style of our tourist, or the principal objects of his pursuit, we should merely transcribe those which have already been made by our predecessors in their review of Mr. Warner's former volume, to which we must refer our readers. Mr. W.'s present itinerary evinces, as his former one, a more than common ardor and activity, and he has, moreover, as before, prefixed to each letter a neat little chart of the route which it describes.

ART. VI. *Studies of Nature, translated from the French of J. H. B. St. Pierre, carefully abridged; with a copious Index.*
By L. T. Rede. 8vo. 450 pages. West. 1798.

THE great object of M. St. Pierre's work was to elucidate the harmony of the various operations of nature. In his pursuit
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of this object he has certainly entitled himself to our obligations, not only by his collection, arrangement, and illustration of a very great variety of facts, relative to the different subjects of natural history, but by his exposition of those extensive analogies, connecting them with each other, of which many are too obscure, and many more too obvious, to attract the eye of a common observer. Whilst, however, we concede this tribute of praise to the author of the *Studies of Nature*, we must observe that, for the purpose of general utility, no work stood more in need of a careful and judicious abridgment. Not only were there many passages which, as our editor observes, 'might be omitted without injury to the main design of the author,' but many, of which the object and interests of his main design particularly demanded the suppression; and those, not only passages 'in which he has sported on the wings of fancy, and which might lead a youthful imagination beyond those objects, which are best suited to earlier observation and comprehension,' but passages, also, where, in attempting a peculiar subtilty of distinction, he has bewildered his discussions with gross confusion and palpable absurdities. Of this we shall notice only a single instance, to which, as well as to several others, we are sorry that our editor has not extended the exercise of his pruning-knife. In a chapter on the *Pleasures of Ignorance*, the author says,

'We must take care not to confound, as all our moralists do, ignorance and error. Ignorance is the work of nature, and in many cases a blessing to man; whereas error is frequently the fruit of our pretended human sciences, and is always an evil.'

The principle of this distinction, which was probably borrowed from Helvetius, is certainly just; but it is surely as irrational to call ignorance a blessing, as it would be to call non-existence a blessing, because existence is often a state of misery.

'For one pleasure which science bestows, and causes to perish in the bestowing, ignorance presents us with a thousand which flatter us infinitely more. You demonstrate to me that the sun is a fixed globe, the attraction of which gives to the planets one half of their movements. Had they, who believed it to be conducted round the world by Apollo, an idea less sublime?'

If not, it is yet evident that they were indebted for this idea to error, not to ignorance, and our author reverts to the same confusion of language which he set out with exposing.

'O mysterious ignorance,' concludes the author, 'draw thy hallowed curtains over those enchanting spectacles? Permit not human science to apply to them its cheerless compasses. Let not virtue be reduced henceforth to look for her reward from the justice and the sensibility of a globe! Permit her to think that there are, in the universe, destinies far different from those which fill up the measure of woe upon this earth.'

Does this appeal to ignorance in support of the confidence of virtue, convey a sentiment fitted to assist the labors of those

"who

“ who teach the young idea how to shoot?”

On many accounts this abridgment may be highly useful; but we certainly cannot give it our unqualified approbation, as adapted to that purpose which appears to have been a principal object of its publication—the instruction of youth.

ART. VII. *General Biography, or Lives, Critical and Historical, of the most Eminent Persons of all Ages, Countries, Conditions, and Professions, arranged according to Alphabetical Order. Chiefly composed by J. Aikin, M. D. and the late Rev. W. Enfield, LL. D. Volume I. 4to. 560 pages. Price 1l. 5s. Robinsons.*

THIS volume is introduced to the reader by a well-written and very sensible preface; in which the nature of the work, and the design of the writers of it, are pointed out. They tell us, that they hope they have dismissed few characters of real merit without fully answering the leading biographical questions, ‘What was he? What did he?’—‘His moral and intellectual qualities,’ they add, ‘the principal events of his life, his relative merit in the department he occupied, and especially the manner in which he was first formed to his art or profession, with the gradations by which he rose to excellence, have engaged our attentive inquiries, and we have endeavoured to develop them with all the accuracy that conciseness would allow.’

It is impossible for any one to read this, without perceiving that these learned writers fully comprehended the duties of the undertaking in which they were engaged, whatever, upon examining the contents, may be his opinion of its execution. Every one who is conversant with the writings of Dr. Aikin and Dr. Enfield will look into this work with raised expectations, and will be ready, even antecedently to inspection, to congratulate the country upon an accession of literary wealth. It must be acknowledged that, although we have many useful, and even some splendid biographical works in our language, yet we have not one of a nature and extent similar to the present: something of this kind was therefore certainly a desideratum. The Biographical Dictionary, of which a new edition has lately been published, may perhaps be urged as an exception to this remark; but we think that work too summary and concise to satisfy the curiosity or increase the knowledge of mankind, concerning the eminent of all ages and countries. Indeed a complete work of this kind can never be expected; for, not to mention the difficulties which lie in the way of obtaining exact information concerning the conduct and attainments of any individual, even one with whom the biographer was most intimately acquainted, of learning *how the character was modelled*, or ‘in what manner he was first formed for his art or profession,’ it must be obvious to the most superficial consideration, that

that, as the original biography of all nations is essentially imperfect, every *compendium* of such biography must necessarily be still more so.

Their title to praise will be great if our biographers have in part executed a work which has no equal of its kind in the language, and which may be read with pleasure by the curious, and with profit by the thoughtful. To this praise it will be found that they are intitled, and to more than this they, perhaps, did not aspire.

The accounts of most of the remarkable men recorded in this volume, whose lives have employed the pens of different writers, are very satisfactory. The narratives are lucid, the reflexions wise and philosophical, and though the accounts be concise, they are yet full. The lives of Alexander the Great, of Atticus, of Athanasius, &c. &c. present evidence to the justice of this remark.

We are sorry, however, that we have it not in our power to say that the lives of natives of our own country, even of some who have been contemporary with the biographers, are given with a minuteness and interest proportionate to the means in existence of obtaining information. The writers evidently are almost exclusively indebted to *written accounts*, and appear to have learned nothing, or very little, from living and oral communication. The editors of the *Biographia Britannica* appear to us much more fortunate in this respect. We cannot better establish the solidity of this remark than by referring our readers to the life of Sir Richard Arkwright. Whatever the personal character of Arkwright might be, his name was, and ever must be connected with inventions, which have given to this country a pre-eminence amongst nations in commerce and manufacture. And may not many be expected to look into this work with eager curiosity for an account of this man and of his inventions? We believe they will experience a severe disappointment. It has been often remarked, and we think with judgment, that as, whilst we have the lives of learned men preserved in great numbers, we have few lives of men of eminence in the commercial world, it has become now a great desideratum to have exact accounts of the character, conduct, and talents, of such as have been, in business, the *founders of great fortunes*. Arkwright was one of these, and had also the credit of some of the most remarkable discoveries of his time. What then has been the result of the inquiries of our biographers concerning this man? So trifling, as to be in the highest degree unsatisfactory. We have a parade of the general fate and fortune of inventors and projectors, not closely connected with the circumstances of Arkwright's history, and some slight account of the law suit about his patent; and this is the life of Arkwright! If any reader be satisfied with this, he is destitute of all

all laudable curiosity respecting the history of his species or of his country. We must also add, that what little is here given us of information concerning Arkwright, is ill written; it appears that it was written neither by Dr. Aikin nor Dr. Enfield, but this is no apology for its imperfections.

We have also remarked the omission of some names, which we think were intitled to a place in this work, and we cannot but consider their omission as an additional proof that the public is not to expect from this volume much *original* information concerning natives of our own country. Amongst the omissions of which we complain we number the celebrated philanthropist, Mr. Allen, of Bath, the friend of Pope and the patron of Warburton. Pope's *Man of Ross* was surely not unworthy the notice of our biographers. We think, too, that the unfortunate Major André was worthy of record, as an object of curiosity—a genius of much promise, who found a premature grave. Such, at least, is the opinion of Miss Seward concerning him, and we conceive that one whom Miss Seward was proud to celebrate would have done no dishonour to these pages. There are many who will be inclined to think that Mr. Badcock, so well known for the assistance he gave to Dr. White in the composition of the Bampton Lectures, merited notice, at least as much as one third of the *divines* whose names are found in this volume. We have given these instances that we might not be accused of a disposition to detract from the merit of this work, by unfounded charges of neglect. We might have named others, but these will serve as a sample of such as we conceive ought to have been, and are not, mentioned in the volume before us.

Notwithstanding these observations, which we have been obliged by our regard to truth and propriety to make, we must pronounce, and we do it with pleasure, that this is a performance of very great merit, and that the lives are, in general, written in a neat and even in an elegant style. We think it improper to dismish the article without a specimen.

P. 449.—‘The character of Atterbury was marked with that turbulent ambition and contentious violence which animated the Becketts and Lauds of former times, and which was ill disguised by the affected mildness and moderation of his epistolary writings. His party zeal sufficiently appears from the events of his life above recited, and various anecdotes might be added in confirmation of it. Lord Harcourt affirmed, that on the queen's death, Atterbury came to him and Bolingbroke, and urged the immediate proclamation of the pretender, offering to put on his lawn sleeves, and head the procession. The very rancour of party was shown in his suspension of a worthy clergyman, Mr. Gibbin, curate of Gravesend, for allowing the use of his church to the chaplain of the Dutch troops, who were called over to suppress the rebellion. Such a man, however, would probably feel an equally warm attachment to his friends; and nothing can be more cordially
affectionate

affectionate than his letters to Pope, with whom he maintained a close intimacy only terminated with life. From an anecdote which Lord Chesterfield related to Dr. Maty, as told him by Pope, it would seem that Atterbury was long a sceptic as to the grounds of that religion for the established form of which he was so zealous. Yet the same anecdote implies that he ceased to be so; and he seems to have derived much of the consolation of his adversity from his religious principles.

His literary character has, perhaps (through his connections with those who were at that time the chief dispensers of literary fame), been raised beyond its true level. But, to this day, few English authors rank above him as a composer of sermons; in which, if he is not sublime, he is sometimes pathetic, and always eloquent, clear, and striking. As a controversialist, he is keen, lively, and dexterous, but rather popular than deep or exact. His letters are admirable specimens of elegant familiarity, and are preferred to the more laboured ones of Pope, with which they are printed. His critical efforts have done more honour to his taste than to his erudition; and in particular, his attempt to prove that Virgil meant to allude to Antonius Musa, under the fictitious person of Iapis in the *Æneid*, is reckoned futile by judicious commentators. His translations of two odes of Horace have received more than their due share of applause.—A.

One distinguishing feature of this publication is the *philosophical spirit* which it every where breathes; the reflexions are often profound, always solid, pertinent, and convincing. In this respect it owns no equal among the works of English biographers. Sincerely do we regret, that in so early a stage of its execution, the undertaking has been deprived of the important aid of one of its principal conductors. We wish, though we can scarcely hope, that the surviving one may live to see its completion. The greatest restraint on the meditation of great designs is that we are so seldom allowed the prospect of being able to carry them into effect. Dr. Enfield's department, we are told, has already in a great measure been supplied; we rejoice to hear this, for when such provision is left to the casual discretion of the booksellers, it is not always well made.

ART. VIII. *Memoirs of the Life of Charles Macklin, Esq. principally compiled from his own Papers and Memorandums; which contain his Criticisms on, and Characters and Anecdotes of, Betterton, Booth, Wilks, Cibber, Garrick, Barry, Mossop, Sheridan, Foote, Quin, and most of his Contemporaries; together with his valuable Observations on the Drama, on the Science of Acting, and on various other Subjects: the Whole forming a comprehensive but succinct History of the Stage; which includes a Period of one hundred Years.* By James Thomas Kirkman, of the Honourable Society of Lincoln's Inn. 8vo. 2 vols. About 450 pages each. Price 14s. Lackington and Allen. 1799.

SINCE

SINCE the death of this dramatic Nestor, we have had various 'memoirs,' &c. of his chequered and eventful life: so that, although the public may not be in possession of every minute particular in the biography of Mr. Macklin, it is sufficiently well acquainted with the general outlines to render it unnecessary for us to make a formal abstract of the work before us. These memoirs are by far the most copious of any that we have seen: Mr. Macklin had at one time himself determined to give the world an authentic history of his life; he had proceeded so far as to prepare, and even to arrange, in some measure, the materials for that purpose;

'But finding,' says our author, vol. i. p. 2, 'that a work of that magnitude would be too laborious an undertaking, at his time of life, and too great an encroachment on the business of his profession, he resolved to give the materials to some person, on whom he could depend, for the purpose of compiling and throwing them into form.'

'With this view he made choice of the author, conceiving, as it is hoped the reader will, that a near relation, bred up, and living for upwards of twenty years with him; acquainted from his infancy with his descent, family, and connections; and enabled by daily observations to trace out, and truly delineate his character, would be more likely than any other person to write an history recommended by truth and fidelity; objects, in Mr. Macklin's opinion, far superior, in intrinsic value, to all the graces and beauties which the highest embellishments of style could bestow upon it.'

The period of Mr. Macklin's birth has been disputed: himself used to say that he was born in the last year of the last century: Mr. K. contends that he was born long before that time. His father, William M'Laughlin, (that is the uncorrupted name,) commanded a troop of horse in the army of James the Second, at the battle of the Boyne; his mother partook the fortunes of her husband, and, attended by a female servant, led her infant of two months old into the danger and the din of war! That infant was the subject of the present biography, who was carried away from the scene of action in a *turf-kish* to the house of a friend at Shinglass, in the county of Westmeath. In attestation of the truth of this story, however, no written documents can be adduced, but Mr. K. brings forward the oral testimony of Mrs. Elizabeth Macklin, relict of the late Charles, who has assured the author, and if necessary, is ready to testify upon oath, that the circumstance has been repeatedly communicated to her by a person of the name of Mary Millar, who lived servant with the mother of Mr. Macklin during his minority,

'And who had,' vol. i. p. 146, 'her own age marked in her arm by gunpowder, which mark, or register, of birth, Mrs. Macklin had frequent opportunities of seeing, during the time Mary Millar lived servant with her in Dublin. And this circumstance is the more accurate and remarkable, because the difference between the age of Charles Macklin and Mary Millar was known to be exactly ten years.'

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'The author also of this history has frequently heard his mother, who lived long in the habits of intimacy with the mother of Mr. Macklin, recount the story of Charles having been conveyed away, as already stated, in a *turf-kiss*, from the scene of action near the Boyne, and of his living two days almost without sustenance, owing to his having been rapidly carried away to a distant part of the country, without his mother, who nursed him herself, but who was then occupied in affording every consolation in her power to the afflicted mind of her husband, after his defeat.'

The reason attributed for Mr. Macklin's solicitous concealment of his age is, that he was conscious of a deficiency in *erudition* at a time of life when his mind ought to have been better stored with the treasures of science: this is a very lame excuse: the company which Mr. Macklin kept, when he was thirty years of age, was not likely, by their superior *scientific* attainments, to put our hero to the blush. It was at this period of his life, however, that Mr. Macklin offered himself to Mr. Watkins, the manager of a strolling company at Bristol; he was engaged, and found the major part of the performers were younger than himself. That he felt mortified at the superior *professional* knowledge of his junior companions is very likely, and that on this account he might wish to conceal his age is equally so. While he was hesitating, however, whether he should call himself twenty, or whether he should call himself thirty years old, a circumstance occurred which soon brought him to a decision: the heroine of this company was extremely beautiful, and only in her nineteenth year. Mr. Macklin became enamoured of her charms, but he looked upon the disparity of their years as an insuperable obstacle to their union. The difficulty was easily to be obviated by an elision of ten years from his own life, and a '*theatrical marriage*' took place between them. Mr. Macklin, however, did not enjoy the undivided affection of Miss Jackson: she was immoderately fond of the bottle, and in a short time died a victim to her intemperance.

Mr. K. seems to have imbibed, with too little discrimination, the partialities, the antipathies, and the opinions of his friend; the character of the biographer, therefore, is sometimes lost in that of the panegyrist. There is something very indiscreet, to say the least of it, in the following passage: 'As Mr. Macklin was never sensible that he had occasion to blush at any part of his conduct, he was always much less fearful of being exposed than of being misrepresented.' That Mr. Macklin might be less fearful of being exposed than of being misrepresented, is very probable; but his character was far, very far indeed, from being pure and immaculate; and not to have been sensible that he had occasion to blush at many parts of his conduct, would have betrayed a degree of ignorance, stupidity or pride, which we cannot think him to have possessed. Hard poverty, and the in-

experience of youth will plead in palliation of his having been kept by the amorous landlady in the borough: this early incident in Mr. Macklin's life, however, was not of a nature to be contemplated by him in his maturer years with much satisfaction or complacency; and although a licentious fashion may give sanction to his 'theatrical marriage' with Miss Jackson, in a moral view his connexion with that beautiful Bacchante was little better than his lewd vassalage to 'mine hostess' in the Borough. Mr. Macklin, in his latter days, surely, could not take a retrospect of the hours he had passed at White's, without blushing at the vast sums he had staked on the turn of a die, or the color of a card; and a subject of still more serious and painful reflection to him, must have been the dreadful excess into which the unbridled violence of passion had the effect of precipitating him. The history of the unfortunate circumstance here alluded to is narrated at large in the volumes before us, with every particular as it came out in evidence upon the trial. Mr. Macklin, it is well known, 'was indicted for the wilful murder of Thomas Hallam, by thrusting a stick into his left eye, and thereby giving him a mortal wound, of the breadth of a quarter of an inch, and depth of one inch and an half, May the 10th, 1735, of which wound he languished till the next day, and then died.' The jury brought in a verdict of manslaughter.

The domestic character of Mr. Macklin seems, from indisputable evidence, to have been very amiable: his biographer has inserted a great many original letters of Mr. Macklin to his children, and they all breathe the purest and most ardent solicitude, not for their worldly welfare only, but for their respectability, their strict honor, and integrity; and the very affectionate manner also in which he always speaks of his wife, does great honor to his feelings and character as a husband.

A considerable portion of this work is employed in recording the petty quarrels, and the trumpery intrigues, among the managers and actors of different theatres: now and then this dry uninteresting narrative (for so it is to us) is enlivened, however, with some anecdotes of Betterton, of Booth, of Foote, of Garrick, or of Quin, which reward us for the trouble of perusal.

The enmity which subsisted between Mr. Macklin and Garrick is well known. It may be curious to some of our readers to see in what estimation the talents and character of the latter were held by the former. The following is an extract from one of the original papers of Mr. Macklin here preserved.

Vol. ii. p. 265.—'His [Garrick's] art in acting consisted in incessantly pawing and hawling the characters about, with whom he was concerned in the scene—and when he did not paw or hawl the character, he stalked between them and the audience; and that generally when they

they were speaking the most important and interesting passage in the scene—which demanded, in propriety, a strict attention. When he spoke himself, he pulled about the character he spoke to, and squeezed his hat, hung forward, and stood almost upon one foot, with no part of the other to the ground but the toe of it.

‘ His whole action, when he made love in tragedy or in comedy—when he was familiar with his friend—when he was in anger; sorrow, rage—consisted in squeezing his hat, thumping his breast, strutting up and down the stage, and pawing the characters that he acted with.

‘ In private life, had this man been interdicted the use of mimicry, of simulation, and dissimulation, he would have appeared, what in reality he was, a superficial, insignificant man. But with the help of those arts, he was entertaining, and appeared sagacious, learned, good-natured, modest, and friendly to those who had no dealings with him—but to those who had, he was known to the very heart; for his attachment to interest in dealings made him as obvious, as if Nature had made a window to his heart.

‘ Our actions are the only true testimonies of our probity. Our intimates, and those with whom we chuse to retire and live in private, furnish the best proofs of the strength or weakness, richness or poverty of the mind.

‘ The paltry actions of this man are well known: his intimates I need not describe. The tree is known by its fruit.

‘ An ancient philosopher, speaking of envy, characterizes it very finely by saying, it is of that perverse, unfociable, selfish nature, that, were it absolute, it would rather forego the indispensable influence of the sun, than participate the blessing with mankind. This description of envy may seem to some men to be exaggerated and hyperbolical; but those who have observed this passion in its extremes, in the commerce of the world, or, as Milton has characterized it in his *Paradise Lost*, will find it to be naturally just. A stronger instance of its influence sure never was known, than in the person we have now under consideration; for, not satisfied with endeavouring to destroy the fame of every contemporary actor, he attacked even that of the actresses, and succeeded. Nor was the traducement of the living fame of male and female, of every age and rank upon the stage, sufficient to gorge the maw of Envy: it flew to the dead! and insidiously broke open the hallowed tombs of Betterton, Booth, Wilks, and other honoured spirits, Nature’s favourite children, who had been fostered and perfected by art, applause, and time,—and, when living, whom Envy’s self allowed to be Nature’s darling sons, and Art’s perfect pupils: yet, these very spirits would he slyly bring upon the carpet; mimic, though he never saw them; tell anecdotes of them, and traduce their immortal fame, by stigmatizing them as mannerists, and denominating them as persons who spoke in recitative. Thus would he serve them up to ignorant people, who believed and wondered; and to dependants and flatterers, who retailed the libellous anecdotes, invectives, and quaint conceits, and concluded that the art was never known but by the narrator, who, with an apparent modesty, and a concealed impudence, made himself the hero of the historical criticism.

‘ His mind was busied upon the external and partial looks, tones, gaits, and motions of individuals in their ordinary habits. Of the passions, their degrees and kinds, and of their influence upon the organs, and their impressions upon the body, he knew but little, very little indeed ! His mind and knowledge were, like his body, little, pert, acute, quick, weak, easily shocked and worn down, subtle, plausible.

‘ By this external partial imitation of individuals, he continually exercised his mind and body. This wretched buffoonery comprized his knowledge, his humour, his learning, conversation, wisdom, virtue, elegance, breeding, and his companionable qualities. His mimicry, both off the stage and on it, served him instead of figure, grace, character, manners, and of a perfect imitation of general nature, as it passes through human life, in every character, age, rank and station.

‘ He introduced sleep into Lear : shewed how the body dreamt in Richard. He also introduced sleep into Sir John Brute ; and, for many minutes, to the extravagant satisfaction of the audience, cut the faces of an idiot, a lunatic, a stupor : so expert was he in all the trick of the face, which the good people acknowledged as an imitation of a drunken man falling asleep.

‘ Whenever a manager sets up his own power, taste, or avarice, against the power, judgment, or entertainment of the people, he forfeits every right to their favor ; nay, he merits their contempt and resentment. Garrick never obliged the public in any one article during the time of his management ; on the contrary, he took every step by which he could erect himself into a tyrant, to crush the spirit and genius of merit both in actors and authors ; to corrupt the public taste ; to fill his own coffers ; and to make his own judgment the standard of every species of dramatic merit.

‘ His wit always wanted strength, his descriptions humour, his manner pleasantry, his conduct integrity, his disposition good nature, and his deportment decency.’

Two hundred pages of the second volume of this work are occupied in relating the proceedings in the court of King’s Bench on Mr. Macklin’s prosecution against James, Clarke, Aldus, Leigh, &c. for a conspiracy and riot at the theatre. These proceedings, we are told, were taken in short-hand by Mr. Gurney exclusively for the prosecutor, were corrected by Mr. Macklin himself, were revised by Mr. Dunning, who was Mr. Macklin’s counsel and made an ingenious speech on the occasion, and have never before been published. Mr. Macklin certainly behaved with great spirit and generosity in this business. He convicted the defendants who had sought his complete and utter ruin, and, after this conviction, he extended towards them his mercy. Lord Mansfield paid a high compliment, and a very just one, by saying to Mr. Macklin, in open court, ‘ You have met with great applause to-day :—you never acted better.’

Notwithstanding the very large income which, for many years, Mr. Macklin acquired by his abilities, both as an author and

and as an actor, yet, owing to his generosity, his indiscretion, and his indulgence, we are afraid, of a temper which was inclined to be litigious, he became so destitute in his latter days as to have been reduced to the necessity of performing, *even in his hundredth year*, for his own support! His last appearance on the stage was on the 7th of May, 1789, in the character which he supported for many years without any competitor, the character of *Shylock*, for his own benefit.

Vol. ii. p. 327.—‘He went through the first act, but not being pleased with his own execution, and finding his incapacity increase upon him, and after making repeated but ineffectual efforts to overcome the stupor, which clouded his reason, he was obliged to come forward, and apologize for the interruption that he had given the performance, and to request that Mr. Ryder might be permitted to finish his part.

‘The company, with true British sympathy, accepted the change without hesitation, and the father of the British drama took his last and very affecting farewell of the stage, amidst the tears and thundering plaudits of a most crowded audience.’

According to Mr. Kirkman, the subject of the present biography was born on the first of May, 1690, and died on the eleventh of July, 1797, at the advanced age of 107 years, two months, and ten days.

During the last few years of his life, Mr. Macklin enjoyed an annuity of £.200, which was purchased for him by the liberal contributors to the publication of his two plays, ‘*The Man of the World*,’ and ‘*Love-a-la-mode*:’ so that the old man died in easy and respectable circumstances. His widow is yet alive, and gave her sanction and assistance to the present biographical memoirs.

On the whole, we have been considerably entertained with these volumes; they contain abundant anecdotes, and to those who are interested in the private history of play-houses and players, they will afford a large share of amusement. The style of them, however, is very far from being elegant or even correct; and we must add, that the reflexions which are excited in his biographer, by the vicissitudes of Mr. Macklin’s life, are very few and very trifling.

ART. IX. *The Confessions of the celebrated Countess of Lichtenau, late Mrs. Rietz, now confined in the Fortress of Glogau as a State Prisoner. Drawn from original Papers, translated from the German, with an engraved Portrait of the Countess, after an original Painting in the Possession of the Countess Matufka.* 8vo. 68 pages. Price 2s. West. 1799.

WE naturally expect the *confessions* of a criminal to be accompanied with expressions of penitence and remorse; voluntary confession, indeed, generally speaking, is the result of

a strong and agonizing sense of delinquency, fearing punishment and hoping forgiveness. In the meagre and mutilated memoirs before us, however, there is no mark of an unquiet conscience, scarcely one solitary symptom of compunction! We are told in the preface to these Confessions, that they were drawn from original papers, which were found in the possession of the Countess *at the time when she was arrested*, and that they were communicated to the author of this pamphlet, by a member of the committee appointed to enquire into the transactions of this intriguing woman: 'the language, however, was so gross and indelicate, that out of respect to religion and morality it was necessary to omit them.' Now it is worthy of remark, that a considerable portion of these confessions relates to her situation *after her arrest*, and of course could not have been drawn from papers found in her possession at that time.

The Countess of Lichtenau was well known at the court of Berlin, during the reign of the late king of Prussia; from the moment of that monarch's ascension to the moment of his death, she seems to have ruled him almost without a rival. This celebrated female was the daughter of a trumpeter; together with her sister, she was early initiated into all the mysteries of Venus by her mother. Wit and beauty, personal and mental accomplishments soon drew around her men of fortune, of folly, and of fashion: her rise was rapid, and her reign was long. The intrigues, both amorous and political, of the trumpeter's daughter extended to almost every court in Europe: her influence over the monarch was universally known; her spies and emissaries beset every avenue to the throne, and access was only to be obtained by bribing and caressing the Countess. When the king died her power was that instant annihilated:

P. 34.—'The man was now gone that raised me from nothing, and showered favours on me; that sun was set, in whose lustre I shone with borrowed light. The veil fell off, and, seized with horror and remorse, I at once sunk again into my original insignificance. I shook as if I had been touched by the chilling hand of death, and scarce had recollection enough to desire Mousons to order post-horses, to empty the king's strong box, and to take possession of his large diamond and his pocket-book. At that instant an officer entered with twenty-four men, and informed me that, by order of the new King, I was his prisoner. Mousons was immediately taken into custody, and within twenty-four hours transported to Magdeburgh. Thunderstruck, I stared at the officer, collected all the effrontery I still could muster, and, with a haughty countenance and tone of voice, asked him, Who dared to arrest a Countess?—No one but the Emperor dared do so.

'*The Officer.*—It may be so; but at present I have the order of the King my master, which both you and I must obey. Should the King be mistaken, and wrong you, Madam, I am sure he will give you ample satisfaction.

' I was

‘ I was a prisoner; my papers were sealed up; the cursed pocket-book and the King’s ring were taken from me, and a select committee were appointed to examine my treasonable practices against the King and his subjects. I am criminal before my own conscience; I am so in the eye of the law. To whom must I appeal? Who will protect the wretch who thus has outraged humanity? Who can save me? and what have I to expect? Mercy alone I must have recourse to, and what will not mercy do? What is mercy but to forgive the criminal? And is not forgiveness the most glorious prerogative of regal power? I own my crimes are boundless; they call to Heaven for vengeance,—but all may be well yet; the king is just—but he is merciful—and I am a frail woman!’

Surely this passage could not have been drawn from any paper found upon the Countess at the time of her arrest. We are not however disposed to condemn this narrative of her intrigues as totally unauthentic. It is not improbable that the materials might be furnished by the papers and private letters found in her possession.

ART. X. *Anecdotes and Biography, including many modern Characters in the Circles of fashionable and official Life, selected from the Portfolios of a distinguished literary and political Character, lately deceased, alphabetically arranged.* By L. T. Rede. Pitkeathley, Tavistock street, Covent-Garden. 8vo. Price 7s. 1799.

THE sensible, modest, and well written advertisement, prefixed to this volume, so well describes the object and the character of the work, that it is but a justice we owe to the author to transcribe it.

‘ The favourable reception which collections of this kind have received in all ages will, it is presumed, be a sufficient apology for the following publication. “ He that amuses you,” says Lord Bacon, “ is next to him that instructs you.” “ I pity the man,” says Dr. Smith*, “ who has no relish for Anecdote. Should solitude, want of business, or misfortunes of any kind, force such a man to seek relief from books, alas! he finds them “ But formal dullness, tedious friends!” No moment of time needs hang heavy on his hands; no situation, no circumstances, neither at home nor abroad; neither in youth nor old age; neither in prosperity nor adversity, but can be rendered more agreeable while he can taste the intellectual pleasures of a terse and well-told anecdote.” Suppose that youth should reap no other advantage from a work of this nature, than the power of employing those vacant hours, which, for the want of such an agreeable companion, are but too often spent in trifling visits, cards, hunting, drinking-matches, and other hurtful pleasures; even such a consideration is not the least in its favour. But there is another superior to this; such selections tend to enlarge the mind, to excite emulation and a laudable curiosity, to improve the temper, to soften the manners, to soothe the passions, to fill up the pauses of the conversation, to give a zest to hilarity, to cherish reflection, and to

* Late of Mariana-College, America.

lead on to studies of a more exalted class. With these views the following collection was undertaken; several of the Anecdotes are original, and such as have appeared were thought worthy of a more permanent medium than those through which they were at first conveyed.

This advertisement preposessed us in favor of the work, and we have not been disappointed in the perusal of it. The anecdotes fully answer to the character here given of them.

ART. XI. *The Family of Halden: a Novel.* By Augustus la Fontaine. Translated from the German. 4 vols. 12mo. 285 pages. Price 14s. Bell. 1799.

THE press teems with translations from the German writers; their works of imagination possess great merit; in dramatic delineation of character they more peculiarly excel. The interest of the production before us, which is nevertheless considerable, is somewhat weakened by being divided: in pursuing the adventures of the several branches of the Halden family, but little connected with each other, attention, from being dissipated, becomes languid: the sentiment, also, is frequently too prolix, and the scenes spun out to weariness. The work might have been compressed with advantage. Many of the characters bear marks of originality, and are well supported. In that of Major Halden, a veteran soldier, possessing, with great bluntness of manners, unaffected goodness of heart, there is an admirable display of nature and simplicity: the story of his adventures, and of his love, abounds in happy and characteristic strokes. We are little less interested by the fidelity and untutored good sense of honest Henry, his faithful servant, and the preserver of his life. The characters resemble portraits, and bespeak the author's acquaintance with the passions and affections of the human mind. If, upon the whole, the performance may be found heavy, it contains many exquisite scenes to repay the patience of the reader. We select, as a specimen, the following one.

Vol. I. p. 239.—‘He shall not be a soldier, said the major drily, and I have good reasons for saying so.

‘But I thought, dear brother - - - though your reasons may be good - - - I thought, because you yourself have been a soldier - - -

‘On that account, sister, I know the nature of the profession better than you. Soldiers there must be; and if my dear country were attacked, I would still enroll myself, should I even carry a musket. But otherwise - - -! No situation in the world can be more difficult; this I have sufficiently experienced. Subordination is necessary - - - But when I saw men shot who had erred in that point, my eyes were bathed with tears, and I wished I were dead. I however held my tongue, and said only, It must be—But I thank thee, gracious God, that in thy heaven there is no longer subordination—no discontent—no quarrels. Have mercy on the souls of the unfortunate, and forgive us because we are obliged to send them out of the world! - - - Look ye, sister, Hennig has not been educated
for

for subordination: in that respect Charles is a thousand times fitter. But were not that even the case --- I wish you could only see once a field of battle where good use has been made of the sabre! --- When the business was over ---- Gracious God! gracious God! Could your children ----! When I had wiped my bloody sabre ---- Here the major shook his head, and dropt a silent tear—No, may God preserve Hennig from seeing what I have been obliged to see and to feel a hundred times! to cut down from his horse a man—the image of God—my brother! Ah! ---

‘But, my God, brother, said Mrs. Halden, these are enemies though; and the prince or king whom one serves commands it.

‘Hem! returned the major: had my father lived two miles more towards the south, they would have been friends, and the emperor would have commanded it. They were enemies indeed; but they were still men! And do you know what I always prayed secretly when the old colonel called out, Advance—march in God’s name? Merciful God, said I, be so kind as to give the first cannon-ball a billet on my life! (You must know, look ye, that the soldiers commonly say each ball has its billet; though that is not true, as the chaplain has often explained to me.) Now, my prayers were not heard; and it is all well, for I can now again sleep without being disturbed by the cries and groans of the dying around me. In the three first years after the war I could not. Had I known all this in my youth, I should not have entered into the service of the great king, but remained quietly in the territories of our own prince. No, no—Hennig shall be no soldier, except it should be necessary, when his country wants defenders—In that case he must.’

We have not seen the original, but the translation, though not free from negligence, appears by no means deficient in merit.

A curious anachronism occurs in the first volume. Major Halden describes himself as having been appointed a captain in the service *fifty-six* years ago, being then a handsome and sprightly young man; when, during the sickness occasioned by a dangerous wound, he was carefully nursed and attended by a village maiden, whom, after the period when this incident is narrated, he causes to be sought out, and appoints to be his housekeeper. In this station, Hannah (his kind nurse) still young and handsome, having but just completed her *twenty-eighth* year, captivates her benefactor, who finds himself in love, for the first time, when ‘an old fellow *almost fifty*.’

ART. XII. *The Libertines*. 2 vols. 7s. Robinsons.

WHOEVER may be the author of these volumes, we must honestly tell him, that he has ill spent his time, and wasted his talents; for talents he certainly evinces in the progress of the tale. He assures us that he has not copied Mr. Lewis’s *Romance of the ‘Monk.’*—Who can prove the contrary? Had it

it not been for this assertion, we confess there is so much similitude as might have justified suspicion. When will our novelists begin to learn reason and to study nature? and the exhibitions of horror, and the buffoonery of spectres, be relinquished for pictures of the heart, and portraits of human life and real manners?

ART. XIII. *Montrose; or the Gothic Ruin. A Novel.* 3 vols. 10s. 6d. Dutton.

MONTROSE is the second son of a nobleman, who has conceived a rooted hatred and disgust against him from the circumstance of his resembling the former lover of his wife. The youth is, therefore, at an early age, consigned to the care of a friend in America, of whose daughter he becomes enamored, and whom he privately marries. The incidents of the life of Montrose, and his daughter Julia, furnish the materials of these volumes, and will certainly afford considerable pleasure to the readers of novels, at the same time that their tendency is to serve the cause of virtue. The character of Reginald, and the confinement of his mother, strongly bring to recollection the Robbers of Schiller, and the Castle Spectre of Mr. Lewis. But who now looks for originality in productions of this nature? The language, though with few pretensions to elegance, and not uniformly correct, is superior to that of the generality of novels.

ART. XIV. *The Mysterious Seal; a Romance.* By C. L. Proby. 3 vols. 630 pages. Price 10s. 6d. Westley. 1799.

IT is no doubt the duty of a reviewer, although it may often be a painful one, to read the whole of a work before he undertake to give any public opinion of its character. This act of justice we have faithfully performed towards the author of 'the Mysterious Seal.'

Our *patience* will be acknowledged by those who do not suspect our *veracity*: for of this romance we assert, that we have not had the satisfaction to meet with any thing that is either original in its story; or interesting in its character, or elegant in its style, or important in its tendency. Unfortunately it is calculated to *induce* that very ennui, from which the generality of novel readers are so anxious to be relieved. P.

ART. XV. *The Rebel, a Tale of the Times.* By a Lady. 2 vols. 8vo. Price 7s. Southampton, Skelton; London, Law. 1799.

OTHER requisites are necessary for an author beside leisure, solitude, and the want of amusement. Before we presume to instruct or entertain the public, we should at least endeavour to gain some instruction ourselves to qualify us for the task.

We

We are sorry to wound the feelings of the fair writer of the present performance, but we conceive it a duty owing to the public to discourage those insipid productions that can answer no other purpose than to generate habits of indolence, waste the time, and pervert the taste of the youth of both sexes. We would recommend to our author to divert the *solitude* of which she complains, by exertions of active benevolence, or by the wholesome cultivation of the understanding and judgment, rather than by indulging in the enervating visions of a dis-tempered fancy.

ART. XVI. *A Tale of the Times*. By the Author of a *Gossip's Story*. Dedicated by Permission to Mrs. Carter. In Three Vols. 12mo. Price 10s. 6d. Longman. 1799.

WE were much pleased with the former productions of this writer, and sat down to peruse the work before us with a prepossession in its favor. We find in it the same strain of playful irony, which is displayed in the *Gossip's Story*, but we think less judiciously applied, and accompanied with a diffuseness, and frequency of digression, which, with the constant recurrence of metaphorical personification, is highly injurious to the narrative: for, however we may admire the effect of classical allusions, when judiciously and appositely introduced, either in a description of nature or in tracing the effects of the passions, we do not think them by any means appropriate embellishments of a narrative of events. The style is broken by perpetual quotations, which seldom illustrate the meaning of the author; in many instances where the original passage is sublime, it becomes ludicrous by being torn away from its surrounding images, and annexed to others of an opposite or inferior kind, as, when a father's plan for marrying his daughter to his nephew is defeated by the young man's declining the match, he is astonished to see "the cloud cap tower" he had been so many years erecting, prove in one moment to be only "the baseless fabric of a vision." She treats her contemporary novel writers with an asperity not perfectly consistent with unprejudiced liberality: such passages as the following frequently occur.

"But notwithstanding my passionate love of fame compels me to adopt the most fashionable, that is, the certain method of obtaining it, I cannot quite conquer the common foible of old people" (the author writes under the assumed character of an old woman) "that of looking back to the times I have seen, and thinking them somewhat better than the present days. Indeed now and then I am rude enough to conjecture that the modern Parnassus is seated very near that "windy sea of land" which Milton names the Limbo of Vanity, the residence of

"All th' unaccomplish'd works of Nature's hand
Abortive, monstrous, or unkindly mixed."

' Regretting

‘Regretting that simple elegance and rational amusement should be sacrificed to high sounding phrases, and inconceivable wonders, signifying nothing, I sometimes invoke the shades of Addison, Goldsmith, and Fielding; and, after having contemplated the forms of nature or morality which their antiquated pages present, I in vain endeavor to be amused with ghosts and dungeons, incident without character, or character without effect.’

The author, however, does not *exhaust* her satiric quiver on rival writers: many of her shafts are well aimed at the vices and follies of the age, and we think she has well executed what may be called the subordinate objects of her plan; but its great purpose is to combat a particular system, which, employing her principal force, renders her inattentive to the more essential moral of the story. Young people, especially young females, and *more* especially such as are novel readers, are more acted upon by passion and example than by system, and to such, the example of the heroine, and the dazzling brilliance with which she is adorned, will be more dangerous, than the fallacious, and unalluring scepticism of what she calls her “*complete villain*.”

The heroine is described as being ‘at the age of seventeen an enchanting beauty; polite, sensible, accomplished, affable, and generous; the idol of her father, the delight of her friends and dependants, the envy of the neighbourhood, and the object to which every man of fortune in the country secretly aspired.’

— “She was indeed the glass
Wherein the neighbouring youth did dress themselves.”—

In her conduct as a wife and mother she is styled *admirable*, but there are no facts to correspond with these assertions; the author indeed ascribes to her the highest merit in leaving the gay scenes of London, when summoned to Scotland on account of the dangerous illness of her child, ‘though not insensible to the blandishments of adulation, and the seductions of pleasure.’

She becomes acquainted with Fitzosborne, ‘*the complete villain*,’ who succeeds in making her suppose he is in love with her, and that he struggles to subdue his passion. Does she assist this man in these supposed struggles by avoiding him? no, ‘to cheer his seeming dejection, she exerted all the brilliant powers of her mind, and all the fascinating graces of her numerous accomplishments. Charmed out of his pretended melancholy, he seemed to bestow a listless attention, varying the contour of his expressions, as the style of her attractions required, sometimes terminating his silent adulation by exclaiming “happy Monteith” [meaning her husband]. But the heroine revolts not from the coarseness of this homage, which indeed seems by this statement to have been extorted by her sedulous attentions to him.

‘She had often lamented that her Lord’s volatile temper deprived her of that supporting judgment, and directing care, which the
conjugal

conjugal institution has intended to afford to the softer sex; though not doubtful of her own conduct, she naturally wished it should receive the approbation of an observing eye, and a consciousness of her own abilities was attended with some repugnance to their "wasting their sweetness on the desert air." The friend, the adviser, she had long wished for, now presented himself to her, and *she fancied her own character might acquire additional lustre, by imbibing the splendor of so fair an archetype!*

We turn from this calculation of vanity, which our author might fairly have classed with the "*novelties of the eighteenth century*," to attend the heroine and her *Cecisbeo* to a ball, where she retires with him to an orangery, at a distance from the company, for the purpose of seeing '*a Jacobea Lily in full blow*,' and when there, '*is so fascinated by the brightness of the Stars*,' as not to have perceived that a lady who had accompanied them thither had left them. They are discovered by some of the company, who throw out the most *malicious* insinuations on the incident; and she, '*no longer able to rally her spirits*, relieved the ladies from the pain of suppressed merriment, by taking leave.' She returns home, where her *Cecisbeo* is an inmate, expresses to him the poignancy of her feelings at what she calls '*the spirit of detraction and inconsiderateness*, which she had just encountered,' and although, with correspondent outrage against decency, she suffers him to remain tête à tête with her, concerting on the best means of obviating the apprehended reports, until five in the morning, though he drops on his knee, though he tells her she '*is richly worthy of a better fate*, after having in the course of the same evening called her husband *puzzled-pated*,' without any consequent resentment on her part, yet we are told that '*he had never before encountered the resistance of a firm superior mind*, or so strongly seen "*the loveliness of virtue in her own form*," or felt "*how awful goodness is!*"

But the contradictions between the statement of facts, the motives assigned for them, and the inferences deduced, are so strange, as to give the whole history of Lady Monteith the air of a studied palliation of the conduct of some actual demirep, rather than of a novel, where the incidents, as well as the sentiments, are at the command of the author. As guardians of the morals of our fair readers, we have thus patiently substantiated our disapprobation of this work, as far as its influence can operate on female manners.

The characters of Lord Monteith and Fitzosborne are drawn with equal inconsistency and improbability, the former a well-disposed, unaffected, and what may be called a worthy character, and an affectionate and very indulgent husband, though not invulnerable to the fashionable vices which are artfully thrown in his way: from a parity of reasoning we think this character does not appear to be a fictitious one, any more than that of
Lady

Lady Monteith, but he is as unjustly depreciated as she is extolled.

Fitzosborne is represented as an inconsistent and most joyless villain, or rather as a most incongruous nonentity.

Fitzosborne was not a sensualist. Beauty was to him a mere abstract quality, particularly when associated to the ideas of a wife. His frigid heart was too cold, and too selfish to prompt his diabolical invention, or to extenuate his crimes. His vices were systematic, the result of design, &c.'

But we are not informed what are his motives for this design. Is it possible to suppose a vicious and depraved character, and a coward, acting without any self-gratification, sacrificing a present good for the chance of a future contingency, not to be obtained without great personal danger, not only from those he means to injure, but from the laws of his country,—and this merely for the purpose of propagating the *new philosophy*? And that, at the moment when he has it in his power to marry a beautiful woman of rank and fortune, he should form deep schemes against the honor of Lady Monteith, without feeling any passion for her, is a solecism even in the annals of vice. His absurd speculation for getting possession of her fortune, by means of a marriage with her, after she shall have been divorced from her husband, is a conclusion by no means warranted by the wholesome severity exercised towards adulterers by our present L. C. Justice of the King's Bench.

The family of the Evanses are amiable characters, but do not shine in theological controversy; happily, however, their opponent is still weaker than themselves, so that the cause is not injured by the unskilfulness of its advocates.

The character of Sir William Powerscourt claims our unqualified praise; it is happily conceived and consistently sustained. His peculiarities are free from selfishness and affectation, and his benevolence without the alloy of either ostentation or weakness.

E.

ART. XVII. *The Spaniards in Peru, or the Death of Rolla, a Tragedy in five Acts.* By A. v. Kotzebue. Translated from the German by Anne Plumptre. 93 pages. Price 2s. 6d. Phillips. 1799.

ART. XVIII. *Rolla, or the Peruvian Hero, a Tragedy in five Acts.* Translated from the German of Kotzebue, by M. G. Lewis, Esq. M. P. 108 pages. Price 2s. 6d. Bell. 1799.

ART. XIX. *Pizarro, or the Death of Rolla, being the Original of the new Tragedy now performing at the Theatre Royal, Drury Lane.* Translated from the last German edition of A. v. Kotzebue, with Notes, &c. by Thomas Dutton, A. M. Author

Author of 'The Literary Censur.' 120 pages. Price 2s. 6d. West. 1799.

IN our Review of the Virgin of the Sun, of which this tragedy is a sequel, we intimated our opinion of its fitness for representation on our own stage, and how well it would gratify the predominant passion for pageantry and pantomime. The present play possesses the same advantages in a superior degree, and though its attractions are rather specious than sterling, it is not without dramatic merit. The situations are happily conceived, and excite a powerful interest; Rolla, too, is a character of high excellence. Casuists may perhaps dispute, whether he who sacrifices the hopes of love from disinterested regard for the object of it, be really capable of that passion in its extreme degree; hence, in the former play, Rolla has a less prominent station:—here he absorbs all our interest; his ardent love for Cora has subsided into fixed and pensive friendship, and appears only as a stimulus to heroic deeds. But Cora has lost all her enthusiasm and winning simplicity, and is *only* a fond mother. Pizarro is a mere warrior, valiant but ferocious. The character of Elvira is not sufficiently developed, and is somewhat ambiguous. Many minute objections might be made to the detail of the plot, if it were of sufficient importance. Of the three translations, Miss Plumptre's is sufficiently correct, but Mr. Lewis's is more concise and spirited; and with these we suppose the public might have been satisfied. Mr. Dutton, however, gives us a third, enriched with notes on the alterations made by Mr. Sheridan, and on the performance, decorations, &c. which are not without shrewdness and humour, but rendered offensive by an ostentatious display of a few inaccuracies in the previous translations,—an office very easily executed by collating them with the original and with each other, and here assumed with a petulance and solemnity perfectly ridiculous.—“To a *liberal* mind it must ever prove an unpleasant circumstance, to be under the necessity of animadverting on the occasional errors of other writers; and the *feeling* critic cannot but feel an *aggravated sensation of pain* [poor man!] ‘when the object of his remarks is a female, and that female a person of worth and no mean attainments.’—And all this, gentle reader, because Miss P. had mistaken *Bürge* a guarantee for *Burg*, a fortress! A puerile extravagance both of praise and censure runs throughout. It may, perhaps, be rather a premature judgment, but of Pizarro we certainly do not think that it can add to the reputation of the author of ‘The School for Scandal.’ The profits of representation, however, furnish the *manager* with other scales,

Where, in nice balance, truth with gold he weighs,
And solid pudding against empty praise.

We

608 Kotzebue's *Self-Immolation*.—Heiberg's *Poverty and Wealth*.

We have been forward to express our approbation of Kotzebue; the fear now is, that the fashion should be indiscriminately followed. The versions from the German, *in prospect*, are alarming; but when in addition, the minute varieties of translation are the subject of elaborate discussion, we are reminded of the epigram:

“Strange, that such difference should be
’Twixt tweedle dum and tweedle dee.”

ART. XX. *Self Immolation, or the Sacrifice of Love, a Play.*

Translated from the German of Kotzebue, by H. Neuman, Esq. 50 pages. Price 2s. Phillips. 1799.

THIS drama, the translator informs us, ‘Kotzebue himself is known to esteem one of the happiest efforts of his genius’—and we do not wonder at it, for it is the father’s own child, and abounds with those scenes of domestic affliction, called by the French the *tragique bourgeois*, in which he has shown himself eminently successful. It is in these episodical beauties that the merit of the piece, in our judgment, principally consists. Maxwell, a decayed merchant, his blind mother, wife, and little boy, are plunged into the deepest distress. Their poverty is discovered in a series of incidents, exquisitely touching; of which we think some of the most excellent parts are those, where the old lady, blind, and ignorant of her son’s misery, imputes to unkindness and neglect the privations she suffers, and loads her amiable daughter-in-law with cruel and undeserved reproaches. But the plot and catastrophe are very exceptionable. Maxwell, in extreme wretchedness, meets with a former lover of his wife in affluence; too proud to receive personal assistance, and spurning at his kindness, he resolves to go to the East Indies, that his wife may in the mean time marry Walwyn, and so be preserved from perishing. Even this plot is anticipated, and, the catastrophe being in a great measure accidental and unaffected by the generous interference of Walwyn, we are forced to exclaim, “O most lame and impotent conclusion.”

We do not know whether Mr. Cumberland be a reader of German, but we cannot help observing, that this play and the *Stranger*, together, furnish both the incidents and the characters of his deservedly popular *Wheel of Fortune*.

ART. XXI. *Poverty and Wealth, a Comedy in five Acts.* Translated from the Danish of P. A. Heiberg, A. C. by C. H. Wilson, Esq. 8vo. Price 2s. West. 1799.

THIS piece deserves attention, as a translation from a language scarcely known to polite literature; and though, if considered as
a master

a master piece of the Danish drama, it will not sustain a comparison with those of more polished nations; yet we think it equal to the current productions of our own stage. There is something of originality in the humorist Dalton; but his scheme is very imperfectly explained, and the reasons for it, as founded on the character of Howel, not sufficiently obvious. His proverbs and similes are successfully rendered into English. The design of the piece is to correct a gloomy impatience under suffering, and to check a disposition towards misanthropy. We do not think that English literature has gained by the version; nor does it lead us to suppose that the sun of dramatic genius has yet risen in the north; it is, nevertheless, something to mark the first dawns of light succeed the darkness which has so long covered the shores of the Cimbric Chersonesus.

ART. XXII. *Goetz of Berlingen, with the Iron Hand. An Historical Drama, translated from the German of Goethe, the Author of Werter.* 8vo. 138 pages. Price 3s. 6d. Liverpool, McCreery; London, Cadell and Davies.

ART. XXIII. *Goetz of Berlichingen, with the Iron Hand. A Tragedy, translated from the German of Goethe, Author of the Sorrows of Werter, &c.* By William Scott, Esq. Advocate, Edinburgh. 8vo. 216 pages. Price 3s. 6d. Bell. 1799.

IN the present state of our dramatic literature, we confess ourselves by no means displeased with the increasing popularity of the German drama. National, like individual, genius may suffer a temporary exhaustion of productive talent; and in poetry, as in all the various departments of literature, those moments of activity and vigour, in which the mind takes her rapid but short flights into the airy regions of invention, are usually succeeded by periods of languor and debility, when the feeble spirit slowly creeps along in the servile step of imitation. In different countries the respective æras of literary eminence are seldom cotemporary. We would not, therefore, be thought to determine ultimately against the British muses, if we concede that their late dramatic productions have been far inferior to the masterpieces of the German drama—(and German literature is but of yesterday): and it is reasonable to hope that the singularity and novelty of thought and of style which, at its present period, the German stage exhibits, may infuse a fresh vigour into our own writers, and quicken their declining spirit by the discovery of new prospects, and the display of new machinery. GOETHE is one who has contributed, in a considerable degree, to exalt the recent honors of his country. The drama, two translations of which we are now to introduce to our readers, has been popular

on the continent for nearly thirty years. Its prominent excellence is, that it displays with great force and spirit the manners and state of society in Germany at an interesting period, the close of the 15th century; before the imperial power was well established; when civil war was kept alive by the rage and enmity of petty princes and nobles; when the more powerful princes associated to support each other in their local oppression; against whom some of the inferior nobles, or "free knights," attempted to support their independence, acting under the authority of a maxim which, however alarming the situation which it implies, no considerate friend to human happiness can wish to have forgotten, that "the war of freedom is better than the peace of slavery."

At the head of a band of this kind was Götz of Berlingen,

Pref. p. 5.—'A feudal baron,' says the anonymous translator, 'living in the reign of the emperor Maximilian (grandfather and immediate predecessor to Charles Vth.) nursed amidst the storms and tempests of that turbulent period, brave, generous, and sincere, possessing qualities suited to a disordered state of society, and which such a state of society is fitted to strengthen and unfold. Of this troubled condition of Germany during the period already mentioned, it seems, indeed, to have been the principal design of Goethe to give an animated representation, and for this purpose he has written this historical drama after the manner of Shakespeare, of whom he is well known to be an enthusiastic admirer. Like the historical plays of our great Bard, it includes a period, and contains a history, of several years; hence the scene is perpetually shifting even in the same act; and thus are violated with the utmost disregard, and even wantonness, all the unities of time and place. Like Shakespeare, our author exhibits a great variety of characters, from the throne to the cottage, and often introduces individuals that serve less to advance the plot of a regular drama, than to relate the incidents or illustrate the manners of the age. Like him also, he passes, by rapid transition, not only over distance of place, but from one train of sentiment, to another that is opposite; his principal characters are exhibited in almost every variety of situation, from the most calm and peaceful, to the most tumultuous and terrible.'

Such are the design and plan; with the execution we are not perfectly satisfied. Götz himself is portrayed in features at once correct, amiable, and impressive: his bravery, humanity, and magnanimity, are equally conspicuous. The enthusiasm and gallantry of his page George, the rough virtues of Francis Lersen, the sensibility and weakness of Adelbert, are all happily conceived. But the enemies of Götz are rather *said* than *shown* to be base. The nominal head, the bishop, scarcely appears. Nor is Adelaide endued with a fascinating or commanding eloquence adequate to the effect produced. Her character is yet further exceptionable. As the design of the play was to exhibit a certain state of society, the catastrophe should properly have depended

depended on causes arising from that state; but the influence of an artful and beautiful woman is common to all ages and countries. Still more serious objections lie against the construction of the plot. The subsequent incidents do not appear to have been occasioned by the desertion of Adelbert, though that is one of the finest passages in the play; and the incidents are so slightly dependent upon each other, that at the close of the fourth act the *intrigue* is at an end; and in the fifth act, a totally unconnected event takes place, from which alone the catastrophe follows.

The anonymous translation is so decidedly superior to Mr. Scott's, that we shall not scruple making our extract from it alone. It is elegant, and faithful to the sense of the original, though sometimes too diffuse and paraphrastic. Mr. S., on the contrary, seems unacquainted with the dramatic style of composition; so that, when he probably understands the original, he yet fails to convey what he means. Though the German is '*Ein unbekannter*,' we did not expect, 'Enter an unknown;' or that '*der tiefe*,' (back ground) would be rendered 'flat scene.'—'It is coming to sharps,'—'*The* very heart within me,'—'He was as I never saw him,'—'And then no more shalt thou need to *slip* to me trembling and in fear,'—'All swims before my eyes,' &c. are sufficient specimens of vulgarity.

The following scene from the anonymous translation, unfolds the character of the hero: P. 82.

'*A hall in the castle.*

'GORTZ, ELIZABETH, GEORGE, SOLDIERS—all seated at table.

'Gortz. Thus danger binds us closer to each other! be of good cheer, my friends, and do not forget to fill your glasses. The flask is empty—fetch another, dear wife. (*Elizabeth shakes her head.*) What is it all gone?

'Elizabeth. (*Whispering to him.*) There is only one remaining, and I have set it apart for thee.

'Gortz. Not so my love—give it out; they need support, not I. 'Tis my own cause which I defend.

'Elizabeth. Fetch it from the closet.

'Gortz. It is the last, but I feel a presentiment that we need not be sparing of it. It is long since I have felt so contented, so happy. (*Filling his glass*) Long live the emperor! (*All repeat, Long live the emperor.*) And be this the last sentiment, except one, which in the hour of death our tongues shall utter. I love him! for his fate resembles mine; yet am I still happier than he is; he is obliged to punish the poor mice of the state, while he is conscious that 'tis the rats who gnaw and consume his revenues. I know he has often wished that he were dead, rather than longer be the soul of such a crippled body. (*Filling out.*) It will just go once more round: and when that tide is ebbing fast away, whose current no returning flow shall again reanimate; when our life's blood begins to fail, and like the wine in this flask, at first flows slowly, then languidly, and at length drop-by-drop, drop-by-drop, (*dropping slowly the last drainings*

into his glass) what shall then be the last words our tongues shall utter, the last sentiment our hearts shall form?

George. Liberty! Liberty!

Gortz. Liberty for ever!

All. Liberty! Liberty for ever!

Gortz. If liberty survives us, we may close our eyes in peace; for from a better world we shall witness our children's prosperity, and the happiness of our children's sovereign. When vassals serve their prince as faithfully and as independently as you serve me; when princes serve their emperor as—I would wish to serve mine—

George. (*Interrupting*) Great changes must take place before that time arrives.

Gortz. Not so many as might at first be supposed. For have I not known excellent men among princes; and shall I imagine the race is extinct? good men, who valued the happiness of their people, as if it had been their own; who could suffer a noble independent neighbour near them, nor feel inclined either to envy, or to fear him; whose hearts expanded while they sat at table, surrounded by their equals; and who sought not to degrade a free knight into a courtier, before they would permit him to share in their society.

George. Have you been acquainted with princes of such a character?

Gortz. Yes. I shall remember as long as I live, the time, when the landgrave of Hanau gave a hunting-match: all the princes and noblemen who were of the party, dined under the cope of the free heavens, while the country people crowded from all quarters to gaze on them. This was no idle revel, given merely to do honour to its master; but the children with their chubby rosy faces; the middle-aged, with manners at once dignified and respectful; the old men with their venerable and interesting countenances;—all, with happy hearts, participated in the pleasures of their prince, who on God's earth, and on a level with them, felt his joy doubled while he perceived all around him shared it.

George. His character must have resembled yours.

Gortz. Shall we not hope that more such princes may arise to bless our posterity? That obedience to the emperor, peace and friendship with our neighbours, and love and consideration for our vassals, may be the costly treasures which our children and grandchildren may inherit? Every one will then preserve his own; and seek only by honest means to increase it; instead of which, no one now values an acquisition but in proportion to the fraud, or the force, by which he has obtained it.

George. But in those days we should have no sallying out, no making war—

Gortz. Would to God, that in all Germany, there existed not one turbulent disposition, not one discontented spirit! We should still find sufficient exercise for our love of arms. We would clear our mountains from the wolves that infest them; we would rouse the wild-boar amid his native forests; we would fetch our laborious neighbours game from the woods, and accept a pottage from them in return. Were this not sufficient, we and our brethren would guard

guard the boundaries of the empire, like cherubim with flaming swords, against the wolves of Turkey, against the foxes of France; and defend at once, the now neglected lands of our dear emperor, and the peace and happiness of our fellow-subjects.—What a delight were that! George. To venture our lives in the service of our country; to—

‘George. (*Springing up with the wildest enthusiasm.*) Glorious! Glorious!

‘Gortz. (*Smiling.*) Where art thou going there?

‘George. Alas! I had forgot that we are blockaded: ’tis the emperor too who has besieged us; and to escape with our lives from this danger, we are setting them every instant at the hazard.’

ART. XXIV. *The Bachelors, a Comedy, in Five Acts. Translated from the German of W. A. Iffland.* 8vo. 109 pages. Price 2s. Myers. 1799.

Marriage is here recommended in the most powerful manner, not by precept, nor by a description of its joys, but by painting the miseries of celibacy. Counsellor Reinhold, duped by an hypocritical sister, and a knavish valet, has been artfully prevented from marrying, till he fears he can no longer be the object of love; though he has ‘travelled through Europe, understands palaces and temples, paintings and gems, statues and antiquities,’ he yet languishes with ennui and the spleen. His character is not well conceived; we sometimes pity, sometimes despise him. The translation seems to be but poorly executed. The scenes in the cottage, at the close, are the most pleasing; if not natural, they are what we are willing and desirous to believe so, for they forcibly invite our sympathy.

ART. XXV. *The Peckham Frolic: or Nell Gwyn. A Comedy in three Acts.* 8vo. 53 pages. Price 1s. 6d. Hatchard. 1799.

THE scene of this little ‘dramatic whim,’ as the author properly terms it, is laid at Peckham, in Surry, where Charles the Second frequently resided with some select companions. The dramatis personæ are the King, Lord Rochester, Sir Charles Sedley, Thomas Killigrew, Sir Oliver Luke, Ann Killigrew, and Nell Gwyn. This is the frolic: Sir Oliver Luke, a Knight created by Cromwell, arrives at Peckham to present a petition by the King’s appointment: his most sacred Majesty is ‘gone to the olympic games at Newmarket,’ and Nell Gwyn, interesting herself to save the sinking fortune of her friend Ann Killigrew, proposes ‘to sacrifice this Cromwelian calf at the altar of Hymen.’ But how is this to be brought about?

P. 3.—‘No chimera, I assure you: Sir Oliver will most certainly apply to the intervention of my good offices, for the success of

his memorial: I shall freely promise him my interest: and shall intimate to him, at the same time, that a matrimonial connection with some royalist would smoothe every obstacle to his petition; as it would be a proof to the king of the truth of his political conversion.*

The scheme answers admirably, but Sir Oliver resolves to defer the ceremony till he receives approbation of the match from the king himself: this is a little perplexing, for his Majesty's return is uncertain, and if the wealthy Knight should take his departure before the knot is tied, his round-headed relations will dissuade him from so courtly a connection. Nell's roguish and fertile invention, however, soon obviates this difficulty: Rochester can perform the part of a king as well as that of a conjurer; she proposes, therefore, that he should personate his Majesty, and in his royal character give assent to the match, and order one of his chaplains to officiate immediately. Rochester, ever fond of a joke, readily agrees to the proposal. His counterfeit representation of royalty is in danger of being detected by the entrance of the King himself, in *propria persona*. His Majesty, however, entering into the spirit of the frolic, assumes a private name, and suffers the farce to be continued till Sir Oliver and the lady are introduced as bride and bridegroom; when an eclairsissement takes place to the utter astonishment and confusion of Sir Oliver, who damns their Peckham jokes, but seems very well satisfied with his bargain, and sits down to a splendid collation with all the good humour imaginable.

This little jeu d'esprit is, on the whole, kept up with considerable vivacity; and one does not look for historical precision in such a sketch of the frolics at Peckham.

ART. XXVI. *Cupid and Psyche, a Mythological Tale, from the Golden Ass of Apuleius.* 8vo. Pages 48. Price 2s. Wright, 1799.

THE amours of Cupid and Psyche have been recorded by Apuleius and Fulgentius. Psyche is a Greek word, *ψυχη*, which signifies *soul*: and hence the mythos is supposed to denote the victory of concupiscence over the mind. Others deem it an allusion to the sensual and rational faculties, which is much to the same purpose. However this be, Psyche, according to the story, was a beautiful nymph, whom Cupid married, and carried to a blissful secret retreat, where he long enjoyed her company. Venus, enraged at her for robbing the world of her son, puts her to death: but Jupiter, at the request of Cupid, bestowed on her immortality. The present translation from Apuleius has much merit, and will be read with pleasure, even by those who understand the original. We give the following stanzas as a specimen. P. 3.

* Once

- Once stately reign'd a king and queen,
As bards of other times have told,
The happiest that were ever seen
To flourish in the days of old.
- Three daughters blest'd their nuptial bed;
Two daughters exquisitely fair,
Who many a fond youth captive led;
Made many a hapless youth despair.
- The youngest—but no tongue so warm,
Though matchless eloquence be given,
May dare pourtray her finish'd form,
The primest of the works of heaven!
- Say, to delight the wondering earth,
Does she amongst us mortals roam,
Who from the blue deep took her birth,
Her nurture from the sparkling foam?
- O'er her warm cheek's vermillion dye
Waves, lightly waves, her dark brown hair;
Bright as the winter star her eye,
Yet peaceful as the summer air.
- No one to Paphos takes his way,
Cnidos, Cythera, charm no more;
No throngs, with votive chaplets gay,
Th' immortal VENUS now adore.
- Her temples all in ruin lie,
Her altars cold, to dust resign'd,
Her withering garlands flap, and fly,
And rustle in the hollow wind.
- Whilst on the mortal maid they shower
The offerings they to her should bring,
And offer to this fairer flower
The fairest flow'rets of the spring.'

ART. XXVII. *Miltonis Poema, Lycidas, Græce redditum.* 4to.
Price 1s. 6d. Faulder. 1797.

By the motto *Extremum hoc Arëthusa*, &c. prefixed to this Greek translation of Milton's *Lycidas*, we are led to suppose that its author, Mr. Plumptre, intends to quit the task of translation; and, indeed, we think his time may be better employed. Not that we mean to blame his verses: they are at least as good as any Greek verses that have been made in our day: but still we esteem it a waste of time, or at most an idle, though innocent, pass-time, to hammer out Greek metres on an English anvil; which, after all, will be only an approximation to genuine Greek poetry. Mr. P.'s lines are generally well turned, often harmonious, and rarely defective in Miltonic energy: which, certainly, is not easily imitated; and which few of his imitators, either in Greek or Latin, have attained. Who, for example, will attempt to transfuse these:

‘ He knew,
Himself, to sing, and *build the lofty rhyme.*
Or,

‘ He must not flote upon his watery bier,
Unwept, and welter to the parching wind,
Without the meed of some melodious tear.’
But let us see how Mr. P. has rendered them, P. 5.

Οὐδὲ μιν πλώσασθαι ἱασόμεθ’, ἰῆθα καὶ ἰῆθα,
Ἵγρῷ ὑπὲρ φερίτρῳ, γερᾶς τινας ἀμμοροῖν ὠδᾶς,
Παίγνιον αὐαλίοις αἵμοις, ἰέκυν, ὕβριν αἰλλῶν.

This is truly not bad; but it is, as truly, far inferior to the original.

Where were ye, Nymphs, &c. are charmingly and isocratically rendered. P. 9.

‘ Νύμφαι, πᾶ πόκ’ ἄρ’ ἦσθ’, ὅκ’ ἀηλεῖς οἶδμα ῥοᾶν
Κρατὸς ὑπὲρ Λυκίδῳ πεφιλαμένῳ ἀγὶ θάλασσα;
Οὐδὲ γὰρ εἰναλίοις κραμνῶν τόκ’ ἐπαΐσδ’ ἐν ἄκροις,
Οἱ Δρυῖδαι τόθι κῆνται, ἐπήρατοι ὕμνῳ αἰοῖσι,
Οὐδὲ κατ’ ἡλιβάτῳ σκόπιλον λασιούχινά Μῶνας,
Οὐδ’ ἄρ’ ὅπα μαγικὸν Δήβας καταλείβεται ὕδωρ.’

We will yet give one more specimen; corresponding with
‘ Weep no more woeful Shepherds,’ &c. P. 23. and 25.

‘ Ποιμένες, ἢ μακρῷ τῶργον τόδε πίεθις εἶν’
Ἵμνῳ γὰρ Λυκίδας ὁ φίλος πόθος οὐκ ἀπόλωλεν,
Εἰ δὴ καὶ θιάσκῳ ὑπὶδ’ ἀκατόντιον ὕδαρ.
Ὡς ποτ’ ἐς ὠκίῳ πρηνὲς λήχος ἄλιος ἔρπει,
Ἄλλ’ ὅγε δυόμενον καινοῖ μετόπισθε κέρατον,
Καὶ σίλας εὐτριπίσας χαντᾶν νιολαμπὶ χιμῶν,
Αὖθις ἐν ἡῶν φλέγ’ οὐλύμποιο μετώπῳ.
Ὡς Λυκίδας κῆρα εἶχε κατὰ νῦν δ’ ὑψόσ’ αἰεθρεῖς
Φιλτάτῳ ἤ δια χεῖρος, δὲ ἄσπετον οἶδμα θαλάσσης
Οὐκ ἀβείῃ ἐπαύτησιν, ἐν ἄλυσιν αλλοδαποῖσιν,
Ἀλλοδαπᾶν παρὰ καὶ κρανᾶν, πλοκαμίδας ἐνυγρῶν,
Νέκταρος ἐν καθαρῷ βάπτει ῥῶν, ἢ δ’ ἐπακύνει
Ἀρρήτων ἐπίων, κλεινῷ μακάρων ὕμνῳ,
Μεῖλιχον ἱεράνας ἔδραν παρὰ, καὶ φιλότῃτος.
Τᾶ μιν τῶν Ἀγίων ἀγύρεις καλαὶ ἀμφιπέπονται,
Σιμναῖς ἐν σπρόδοις, ἀγανόφρονες, ἢ δ’ ἐς αἰοῖδ’
Κυδίσως μέλια γλυκερᾶν χάρον ἄδυν ἀγορῆς,
Αὐτῷ δμώρηνται, πύματον τόγε, δάκρυ παρειαῖς.’

ART. XXVIII. *Rising Castle, with other Poems.* By George Goodwin. 12mo. Lynn, Turner; London, Robinsons.

THIS little volume, besides the descriptive poem of *Rising Castle*, consists of two monodramas, two elegies, several miscellanies, some short descriptive poems, to which the author gives the modest name of sketches, a few historical notes, and an ‘Ode to Knowledge, (from another pen) originally written at the institution of a book society in Lynn Regis.’

These

These performances are of various merit, though seldom rising above mediocrity: and if their intrinsic value were alone to be considered, we should perhaps consider ourselves as called upon to dismiss them with a very slight degree of notice. But as the author introduces them by 'avowing they were written at, and under, the age of nineteen years,' it is perhaps our duty, as candid guardians of the interests of literature, to foster the infant buds of promise, by noticing the indications of genius which occasionally present themselves in these very imperfect efforts. We shall not therefore scruple to avow it as our opinion, that, if the author would be more careful in directing his attention to the best models, in avoiding the prevalent affectation of false glitter on the one hand, and that ridiculous puerility which has been mistaken for simplicity on the other; and, above all, if he would sedulously cultivate that energy and compression, in which he is at present conspicuously defective, but which constitute in reality the chief merit of poetical composition, he may hereafter favour the world with productions of very superior merit to those now before us.

There are, however, in these poems, besides the feebleness which arises from dilation and prolixity, several defects both in the selection of terms, and construction of the versification. The lines frequently halt for want of a syllable; the author seeming to imagine that there are certain monosyllables, as "spire, our," &c. which the poet is at liberty to pronounce as dissyllables. Thus he has, "Fall'n are the *spires* that did erst appear." "Lynn! as thy *spires* vanish from mine eye." "From the full *choir* of celestial harps." He shews also a great rage for compounding words whose dissonant consonants defy all efforts of oral combination, and which are frequently as inapplicable as they are inharmonious: such as "trout-lov'd waters"—"corn-gilt fields"—"dew-ting'd ground"—"the time-torn wall"—"cloud-checker'd sky"—"grass-clad summit"—"the sweet music of the hand-swept lyre;" and many others equally barbarous and affected. He seems also (in common with many of our more experienced poets) to be totally unacquainted with Dryden's secret (so essential to the construction of harmonious verse in our unfortunate language) of arranging and disposing monosyllables in such a manner as to produce the same voluble and sonorous effect as results from the combination of more complicated words. Not less censurable is the author for his frequent affectation of strained and inelegant metaphors, of which, "the wild rose here in *silken vest* array'd,"—the green raiment of the meadows," and the *flower* that is "to bloom no more, until it *blossoms* in a purer clay," may be taken as specimens.

He has also all the affectation of the new school (as it may be called), such as throwing the accent upon weak adjectives, and indulging in quaint phraseologies and new constructions: affectations

fectations copied from the productions of young men, who, as their judgment matures, will be ashamed of the originals.

Notwithstanding all these defects, and many others which might be enumerated, we repeat it, as our opinion, that these poems, considered as the first productions of a lad of nineteen, display considerable indications of genius. The following may be taken as a specimen of the author's talent, both for imagery and versification. It is from the descriptive poem of "*Rising Castle*."

' I love to see the grey smoke curling o'er,
 The shadowing valley, or the village green,
 The wheel revolving at the cottage door,
 Where all is happiness, and peace serene.
 I love to wander at the close of day,
 The harmless pleasures of the cot to mark,
 To hear sad Philomel's desponding lay,
 Or the wild quavers of the soaring lark.
 Such scenes of nature my young bosom cheer,
 More than the music of Italian throats;
 Who with *such* numbers can delight mine ear?
 Say,—who can warble more melodious notes?"

The first eight lines of this quotation are musical, and the images are pleasing. The observer of nature, however, will inquire why the poet should think of introducing "the lark's note and the nightingale's" at the same point of time? This poem, notwithstanding the affectation of printing it in stanzas of twelve lines, is a palpable, and sometimes servile, imitation of the style of Gray's elegy: and the imitation is altogether injudicious. The elegiac stanza is adapted only to the monotonous strains of tenderness and melancholy, which it expresses with peculiar effect; but the variety of descriptive poetry disdains such trammels.

Perhaps the best poem in this collection is the little romance, to which the author has given the unmeaning and inapplicable title of "*The Stranger*:" for which we must refer the reader to the volume itself.

In blank verse the author is less successful than in rhyme: which is, indeed, by no means surprising; for, whatever may be the opinion of those witlings, who think that the mere measuring out of syllables will produce "*rhime-unfettered verse*," there can be no question among more experienced critics, that blank verse requires more vigour of imagination, a greater richness of thought and expression, a more copious command of language, and a finer ear for the regulation of its infinitely varied pauses, than are requisite for the jingle and comparative monotony of rhyme. Our author, however, does not appear to be conscious that even measure itself is requisite to blank verse; and his monodramas (*Hero*, and *Dunwallo*) are such mere jargons of grating dissonance, and are, moreover, so destitute of interest

interest in every point of view, that in compassion to the tender years of Mr. G. we forbear quotation. The blank verse of the smaller poems, indeed, is less exceptionable; and displays a very different skill: but the following quotations from "The Maniac," will evince in how much the taste of the author is perverted by injudicious imitation.

' In *our** village once poor Barbara dwelt,
A maiden fair she was, and William lov'd
And married her;—but soon the din of war
Urg'd him from home to where the fever rag'd,
And soon he died!—Poor Barbara heard the tale,
And reason fled her, never to return!
We all did love this maiden, and were sad
To see each passing day her tender form
By sorrow wasting.'

In the same strain of *simpleness* Mr. G. proceeds to describe her crazy sorrows—

' But not long
Poor Barbara wander'd in the *dark church-yard*,
For one cold morn a peasant found her stretch'd
On the damp surface of the dewy grass,
Pale, chill, and lifeless! and her snow-white arms
Clasp'd round a mossy gravel'

L.L. W.

ART XXIX. *The Epiphany: A Seatonian Prize Poem.* By William Bolland, M.A. of Trinity College, Cambridge. 4to. 18 pages. Price 1s. Cambridge, Deighton; London, Rivingtons. 1799.

By a clause in Mr. Seaton's will, the rent of his Kissingbury estate is annually to be assigned as a reward to that master of arts, who shall write the best poem on some subject which may be 'most conducive to the honour of the Supreme Being, and recommendation of Virtue;' the subject is to be chosen, and the prize adjudged, by the Vice Chancellor, the Master of Clare Hall, and the Greek Professor, or any two of them. It would be presumptuous in us to tear from the poet's brow a wreath which such competent judges had decreed him; but we feel no disposition to rob it even of a leaf.

Suitable to the subject, the style is grave and solemn: the pauses of the poem are sufficiently varied, and the versification is, in general, smooth and melodious:

P. 4.—' O THOU! pure essence of *etherial Light*,
Thou Morning Star of *Immortality*!
How shall I tell the blessings, which thy rays
Diffus'd on mortals? At thy rising rose
The Sun of Mercy, and to man unbarr'd
The crystal portals of *Eternal Day*:

* It is our author's pleasure that *our* should be pronounced *ou-er*.

Death stood aghast, and dropt his venom'd spear,
 Content to wound, no longer to destroy;
 Tremendous echoing thro' her deepest vaults,
 And caves of blackest night, the conquer'd Grave
 Heav'd a convulsive groan; as of that hour
 Prophetic, when from her exhaustless womb
 Millions shall rise to second life, the heirs
 Of wealth divine, and never ending joy!

In the sixth line of this animated address to the star, there is a monotony in the termination of the three words *crystal*, *portals* and *eternal*, which is unpleasing.

The following passage is rich in imagery and allusion, the sages from the east are bending to Jerusalem their destined course:

P. 5.—‘ Whether from Persia’s distant clime they came,
 Where Caucasus, aspiring mountain, rears
 His cloud-capt head; and giant Ararat,
 Upon the mirror of Araxes’ wave,
 Throws his stupendous image: or that land,
 On which in earliest time the Sons of men,
 With impious hands, and bold presumption, rais’d
 Babel’s proud tower, that first vain monument
 Of mad Ambition: or the torrid plains,
 Where parch’d Arabia to the solar blaze
 Expands her sandy bosom; or those vales,
 Refresh’d by many a stream, where Tigris winds
 His mazy way, and vast Euphrates rolls
 A sea of waters—my uncertain pen
 Recounts not:—Soon as jealous Herod heard
 That journeying Sages, &c.’

There is something flat in the expression, ‘ my uncertain pen recounts not:’ the poet, after he has borne us in imagination to the streams of Tigris and Euphrates, should not have so abruptly recalled us into his study: the words *Herod* and *heard* have so similar a sound, that they should not have come together. Mr. B., in common with authors of great respectability, uses a phrase which we object to as inaccurate: *from whence* is a pleonasm: *whence* is of itself sufficient, and the word *from*, in connection with it, has neither force nor meaning.

We flatter ourselves that Mr. B. will not accuse us of hyper-criticism in these remarks on his poem, which we have perused with pleasure, and with pleasure recommend to our readers.

ART. XXX. *The System. A Poem. With Notes. In Five Books.* By the Rev. Joseph Wise, Rector of Penhurst, &c. 8vo. 92 pages. No Bookseller’s Name, nor Date of Impression.

THE Rector of Penhurst appears to be a good, pious, well-meaning man: but certainly he is no poet: and his *system*, we opine, will not be of long standing.—‘To vindicate the ways of God to man’ is a task far above the capacity of Mr. W.: whose poem with all its numerous manuscript emendations, is a very indifferent composition. But, reader, judge for thyself—Here are thirty lines, as good as any in the parcel. P. 1.—

‘ Creation’s scenes while, pensive, I survey,
Where lot and sage with vague opinion stray;
While through the gloom, as succours light, I try
The most profound concernments to descry;
Studious to fill my function as I ought;
To teach, when first ingenuously taught;
And, for God’s glory and man’s good, make known
Truth, truth sincere, with best assurance shown;
And while, through search, truth rises on my sight,
Till the result evinces—all is right,
Right in the scheme of God;—though much be wrong
Through sin, all rightness still with him is strong:
Just as the rightness evident appears,
Methinks a sceptic thus accosts mine ears:

“ Preacher profess—of God, his works, and laws,—
I call thee to assert thy Master’s cause.
His minister anointed if thou art,
This task is thy inviolable part:
Come on; disclose what overshadow’d lies;
Prove him all-good, all-mighty, and all-wise.
This conscious Being probably must be
Endless, in happiness or misery.
Deriv’d or self-existent be it thought,
Annihilation scarcely will be wrought.
If God created it, will he destroy?
If not, how can he? If he can, yet why?
Endless existence is a serious view;
And muse I must of what is to ensue.
To judge, I earnestly desire to know
What is the origin of bliss and woe;
To know, if all we hope and fear depend
On God or fate, or enemy, or friend.”

This is only the *first* of *five* projected books; which the author, not having received a sufficient number of subscriptions to print the whole, offers to the acceptance of his subscribers.—The contents are—Introduction—General Thesis—Pain and Guilt not necessary for common good—Not derived from fate superior to the power of God—Evil made possible, but not necessary—This scheme is attested by visible nature, in the existence of free-will—In the combination of matter and spirit—In the constancy of Nature’s laws—in occasional changes—in the passing of virtue and vice, through this probationary state, without

without due reward or punishment—Trial, not happiness, is next to the glory of God. The end of the present state, as appears from scripture, reason, and nature—and in this view *Whatever is is right*—Conclusion; Nature must be as it is.—The poem is attended with prose notes as bulky as itself. It is but fair to give one of them as a specimen. It shall be Note 19, as it is a short one. It refers to the following lines in the poem:

‘ Though vicious will withdraws from God some praise,
From souls some pleasure, this like nothing weighs,
Compared with all those faculties divine,
Which in free systems only e’er could shine.’

P. 80.—(19.) Understand only, that the sinner withdraws his praise from God; and thereby, as far as in him lies, detracts from God’s glory: but not that God’s glory is thereby diminished: his glory being the chief end, nothing which happens can defeat, but must advance it. Accordingly, it is evident, as I observe below, that God’s glory is advanced by the fall: not but that it might have been equally advanced, and certainly would, if the fall had never happened: it would have been equally advanced by some other way: but, however, it was advanced by the fall; and as much by that as it would have been otherwise. Let the creatures fall or stand, the glory of God is equally served. But not so is the rectitude and happiness of the creation; for so much sin is so much loss of rectitude to the creation; so much pain is so much loss of happiness, whether it be lost only for a while or for ever. The righteous who suffer undeservedly, and the guilty who repent, may indeed be rewarded, at the last, with higher happiness than would have fallen to their lot, had they never suffered nor been guilty; but then the share of happiness, which the damned lose, will be lost for ever, and the pain they suffer will be for ever established.’

ART. XXXI. *The Pleasures of Hope; with other Poems.* By Thomas Campbell. 12mo. 135 pages. Edinburgh, Mundell; London, Longman. 1799.

THE poetry of this little volume, if it do not exhibit marks of extraordinary genius, is yet by no means contemptible. It displays a fancy of considerable activity at least, if not vigour; a mind well cultivated, if not philosophical; and sentiments of the most ardent zeal in the cause of liberty. After painting the influence of hope in alleviating the various ills of private life, he invokes her aid in consolation of the public miseries of civil society. He alludes with warm sympathy to the hapless fate of Poland.

‘ Oh! bloodiest picture in the book of Time!
Sarmatia fell, unwept, without a crime:
Found not a generous friend, a pitying foe,
Strength in her arms, nor mercy in her woe!
Dropt from her nerveless grasp the shatter’d spear,
Clos’d her bright eye, and curb’d her high career:—

Hope,

Hope, for a season, bade the world farewell,
 And Freedom shriek'd—as KOSCIUSKO fell!——
 ' Departed spirits of the mighty dead!
 Ye that at Marathon, and Leuctra bled!
 Friends of the world! restore your swords to man,
 Fight in his sacred cause, and lead the van!
 Yet for Sarmatia's tears of blood atone,
 And make her arm puissant as your own:—
 Oh! once again to Freedom's cause return
 The patriot Tell—the BRUCE OF BANNOCKBURN!——
 ' Tyrants! in vain ye trace the wizard ring;
 In vain ye limit mind's unwearied spring:
 What! can ye lull the winged winds asleep,
 Arrest the rolling world, or chain the deep?
 No:—the wild wave contemns your scepter'd hand;—
 It roll'd not back when Canute gave command!'

Our author adverts, in a feeling manner, to the oppressed state of the natives of Africa and of India; and he has need of all the enthusiasm of hope, to arm his mind against the gloomy despondence which the prospect is fitted to inspire.

' Did peace descend to triumph and to save,
 When free-born Britons cross'd the Indian wave?
 Ah, no! to more than Rome's ambition true,
 The Nurse of Freedom gave it not to you!'

These specimens display as well the character of its versification, as the general tenor of sentiment, which pervades this poem. Perhaps but a small portion of it can be allowed to be descriptive of the *pleasures of hope*. The second part, which we think inferior to the first, describes rather the pleasures of *sympathy*. The smaller pieces are Specimens of translation from Medea; Love and Madness, an elegy; and one or two songs. Some parts of the first have merit; but we cannot speak in praise of the rest.

ART. XXXII. *Review of Poetry, ancient and modern; a Poem.*
 By Lady M——. 4to. 30 pages. Price 2s. 6d. Booth:
 1799.

THIS 'Review of Poetry' (which comes, we understand, from the pen of Lady Manners,) is merely a catalogue *raisonnée* of some of the principal poets of antient and modern times. We cannot say that our authoress has displayed much taste in either her selection of names, or in the characteristic descriptions which she has annexed to them. The latter contain little more than common-place observations, and in both there is too much appearance of partiality. Is it from a general antigallican prejudice, that not a single French name is admitted into the list of poetical writers in the living languages? Have the muses confined their influence solely to the regions of Italy and of England?

Has

Has Camoens no title to be recorded in the annals of poetry? or would the temple of the tragic muse be disgraced by the bust of Racine? In the register of our own poets, also, we find similar instances of neglect. The names of Collins and of Chatterton surely deserve no inferior place in the rolls of poetic fame, to those of Goldsmith, Shenstone, Johnson and Savage. As a specimen of the style of our authoress, we quote the following lines: P. 27.

‘ Sweetly flow the solemn strains
When desponding Young complains,
Mourning, ’mid night’s deepest gloom,
Fair Narcissa’s early doom;
Young, who erst severe and gay,
Shone in satire’s daring lay.
Akenfide in colors warm
Paints Imagination’s charm.
Careless Churchhill’s vigorous mind
Pours his satire unconfin’d.
Goldsmith’s winning lines impart
Soft benevolence of heart.
Where the moon with glimmering ray
Lights the church-yard’s lonely way,
By pale contemplation led,
Moral Gray delights to tread.’

To praise Young’s versification for sweetness, and to refer the merit of Gray solely to his elegy, surely evince no very accurate taste. A few lines afterwards, we find Johnson celebrated for

Critic taste with *candour* join’d.

The seven-syllable trochaic metre of which this poem is formed, is very suitable to some subjects where sprightliness of movement is required, and where diffuseness of expression is no disadvantage: but here, in a didactic poem (addressed to her son), it is surely out of place. The frequent recurrence of the rhyme makes it necessary frequently to introduce a line for the completion of the couplet, which has nothing to recommend it but the sound of its last syllable. We must do our fair writer the justice to observe, however, that we found much less ground of complaint on this account here than we expected. The word *inexpressive* in the eleventh line of the poem, which the metre occasioned her to substitute for *inexpressible*, conveys a meaning almost directly opposite to what she designed. The versification is easy, and with this praise our authoress must be content.

ART. XXXIII. *Original Sonnets on various Subjects; and Odes paraphrased from Horace.* By Anna Seward.
(Concluded from page 517.)

In a preface prefixed to the “Paraphrase and Imitations from Horace,” Miss S. observes that ‘translations scrupulously

lously faithful, are apt to be stiff, vapid, and obscure, from the often irreconcilably different nature of languages, from local customs, and from allusions to circumstances over which time has drawn a veil.' 'I have taken only the poet's general idea, frequently expanding it to elucidate the sense and to bring the images more distinctly to the eye, induced by the hope of thus infusing into these paraphrases the spirit of original composition.' 'To scholars,' as she observes in a note on her paraphrase of the second of the epodes, 'the fascinating music of the Latin tones and measures, and the elegance with which Horace knew to select and to regulate them, recompense the obscurity which is so frequent in his allusions and in the violence of his transitions from one subject to another, between which the line of connexion is with difficulty traced.'

'What is called a faithful translation of these odes, cannot therefore be interesting to unlearned lovers of verse, how alive soever they may be to poetic beauty. A literal translation in the plainest prose, will always shew the precise quantity of real poetic matter, contained in any production, independent of the music of its intonation and numbers, and the elegance of its style. The prose translations of Horace's odes evince that their merit does not consist in the plenitude of poetic matter or essence, constituted by circumstances of startling interest, by exalted sentiment, impassioned complaint or appeal, distinct and living imagery, happy apposite allusion, and sublime metaphor; but in certain elegant, verbal, felicities, and general charm of style, produced by the force and and sweetness of the Latin language, subservient to the fine ear, the lively and exquisite taste of Horace. These are the graces which we find so apt to evaporate in translation, while genuine poetic matter, as defined above, is capable of being transfused into any other language without losing a particle of its excellence, provided the chemist who undertakes the operation has genius and skill. The more this poetic matter in an author abounds, the more close and faithful a translator, who has judgment, may venture to render his version—but to transfuse merely *verbal* felicities into another language, is an attempt scarcely less fruitless than to clasp the rainbow. A kindred *nothingness*, as to poetic *value*, must ensue. There is, however, a considerable, though not abounding quantity of poetic matter, or essence in Horace; but it bears no proportion to the profusion of those evanescent glories, which will not bear the grasp of another language. To give that essence in increased quantity, and in the freedom of unimitative numbers, is attempted in this selection. Dryden and Pope translated upon that plan, and hence their paraphrases have the spirit of original poems.'

As a specimen, we shall present our readers with the ode
'To Barine.'

'BOOK II. ODE THE 8th.

' Barine, to thy always broken vows
 Were slightest punishment ordained;
 Hadst thou less charming been
 By one grey hair upon thy polished brows;
 If but a single tooth were stained,
 A nail discolour'd seen,
 Then might I nurse the hope, that faithful grown,
 The future might at length the guilty past atone.
 ' But ah! no sooner on that perjured head,
 With pomp, the votive wreaths are bound,
 In mockery of truth,
 Than lovelier grace thy faithless beauties shed;
 Then com'st, with new-born conquest crown'd,
 The care of all our youth,
 Their *public* care; and murmur'd praises raise,
 Where'er the beams are shot of those resistless eyes.
 ' Thy mother's buried dust;—the midnight train,
 Of silent stars,—the rolling spheres,
 Each God, that listening bows,
 With thee it prospers, false-one! to prophane.
 The nymphs attend;—gay Venus hears,
 And all deride thy vows;
 And Cupid whets afresh his burning darts
 On the stone, moist with blood, that dropt from wounded hearts.
 ' For thee, our rising youth to manhood grow,
 Ordain'd thy powerful chains to wear;
 Nor do thy former slaves,
 From the gay roof of their false mistress go,
 Tho' sworn no more to linger there;
 Triumphant beauty braves
 The wise resolve;—and ere they reach the door,
 Fixes the faltering step to thy magnetic floor.
 ' Thee the sage matron fears, intent to warn
 Her striplings;—thee the miser dreads,
 And, of thy power aware,
 Brides from the fane with anxious sighs return,
 Lest the bright nets thy beauty spreads,
 Their plighted Lords ensnare,
 Ere fades the marriage torch; nay, even now,
 While undispers'd the breath, that form'd the nuptial vow.'

Our fair authoress, following the majority of commentators, has ingeniously endeavoured to fill up the supposed hiatus in the 7th ode of book the first, but, persuaded, as we are, with Sanadon, that it is composed of two distinct odes, the former of which may be called the praise of his country seat, and the other 'an Exhortation to live well, addressed to Plancus,' as it was actually intitled in some very ancient manuscripts, we shall only express our wish that Miss S., on a reconsideration of the

the subject, may adopt Sanadon's idea, and give us in the next edition of this, the most highly polished of all her productions, or, what we should prefer, an 8vo. edition of all her works, a new version in measures adapted to the different subjects, preserving, however, the present translation for the benefit of those who may think differently from us. Nor can we take leave of our delightful poetess, without requesting her to try what effect some of the shorter odes of Horace would produce in that measure in which she has so happily succeeded in her sonnets.

E.

ART. XXXIV. *Phthiologia a Poem miscellaneously-descriptive and didactical; in four Parts. To which are prefixed certain preliminary, and phiso-medical Observations, and Admonitions.* 8vo. 105 pages. Price 3s. 6d. Boozey. 1799.

THIS work appears to have been composed during 'an abode in the hospitable mansion of the hon. colonel St. John, at Rockly;' but whether the author be a priest belonging to the temple of Æsculapius, or one who through gratitude brings a double offering to the son of Apollo, we cannot divine. The preliminary observations consist chiefly of extracts from our best authors, and as a specimen of this part of the work we shall select the following:

P. 24.—'The English,' says Claromontius, in his treatise *De Ære, aquis, et locis terræ Angliæ*, published at London in 1682, 'as I was informed by certain elderly people, before the civil dissentions, lived in much festive indulgence and luxury; enjoying in rotation, at each one's habitation, long continued feasts, with copious quantities of liquor. And, commonly, there was no one, howsoever humble his state, who did not liberally treat his neighbours, as well as strangers, with kindness and hospitality. But what took place afterwards, when civil discords rent the minds of the people! What not only did injury to science as well as the comfort of social gratifications. After, I know not what kind of a religious frenzy seized the minds of the people, disturbed peace and overturned the order of all things; the custom of invitation and visiting fell into disuse. Doubtless, as it seems, for the purpose of cultivating a different religion; every person then looking upon his neighbour with a suspicious eye—hence religion reconciled their manners to pristine simplicity.'

As a poet, our author stands very low in the scale of metrical harmony, and he is not less deficient in unity of plan. The following we select as the most favorable specimens.

P. 51.—'Sweetly with her the light-wing'd moments flew,
When first in love a blithsome hope she knew:
No doubt, nor fear, her youthful heart possess'd,
Nor sorrow broke upon her balmy rest.
Charming in smiles of fortune and health's bloom,
Her joys ne'er dream'd of future ills to come.
Aurora's face for her rose fresh and fair,
And flow'rs for her perfum'd the sun-beam'd air.

But ere her life had reach'd meridian hour,
 A gath'ring storm drench'd on her head its pow'r;
 Relentless burst—and swiftly henceforth gave
 To expectation's bliss an early grave;
 And left her love-lorn and despairing breast,
 With pining care and disappointment press'd.
 So may the morn that's gilt with lucid ray,
 Weep in its show'rs ere ripen'd into day.'

P. 102. — 'Yet HOPE still animates,
 And soothing confidence in aid creates.
 The drooping frame to raise—that FRIEND contends,
 Like as the trembling drop that yet appends,
 Shook by the gales—that passing by it, flit;
 Unwilling still, its tender hold to quit.'

This last extract may remind us of the following beautiful lines, in which Armstrong, who stands next to Akenfide in our list of medical poets, paints the gradual extinction of life.

" 'Through tedious channels the congealing flood
 Crawls lazily, and hardly wanders on;
 It loiters still: and now it stirs no more*.

ART. XXXV. *Sanscreeet Fragments, or interesting Extracts from the sacred Books of the Brahmins, on Subjects important to the British Isles; in two Parts.* By the Author of '*Indian Antiquities*.' 8vo. p. 64. Price 2s. 6d. Gardiner. 1798.

THE first part of Mr. Maurice's tract is meant as a conclusion of the parallel, commenced in his *Indian History*, between the Mosaic and Hindoo Records. — P. 7.

'Having compleated,' says he, 'the parallel, begun in the first volume of the *Indian History*, between the Sanscreeet and Mosaic Records, I consider myself bound, by duty, not to delay presenting my subscribers with the following interesting details. To the public, the production of it, at this crisis, will be important, on account of the new accession of evidence collectively brought by it to the national faith; and, to myself, it may possibly prove of material use, by refuting the idle charge of *system*, so repeatedly objected to that work, and which has proved so extremely injurious to the sale of the former volume. From these pages, it will, I trust, be clearly evident, with how little solid reason that charge has been made, and demonstrate, against all the sceptical declaimers concerning India and its *unfathomable antiquity*, that no history of that country can be just to its venerable records, that it is not written on the *system*, if it must be so denominated, on which mine proceeds. And, surely, after such repeated attempts as have been made to poison the public mind from that source, after so many *beterodox* historical relations, one *History of India*, at least, may be allowed to be

* — a while the living hill
 Heaved with convulsive throes,—and all was still."
Darwin's Bot. Gard. i. canto. 2. l. 498.

orthodox. The matter, however, is now brought into a narrow compass; the whole remainder of the evidence is wound up in one short chapter, which is here presented to the reader, and in its present octavo form, that those who may not be subscribers to my larger work, the quarto history, may be in possession of that evidence, and bind it up with the Indian Antiquities, in proof of that introductory work also having not been undertaken on light grounds, nor having proceeded on a SYSTEM which could not be defended.

'The pages which contain my vindication, and the concluding parallel of the Mosaic and Indian Records, form the FIRST PART of this small pamphlet.'

Mr. Maurice is very solicitous to repel the objections that have been made, both to his *Indian Antiquities*, and to his *History of Hindostan*, as if they were calculated to establish a favorite system. We fear that those who were of that opinion before, will not be disposed to change it by reading the present publication.

The *Sanscreeet Fragments*, which make the second part of the pamphlet, consist of Extracts by Francis Wilford, Esq. from the *Puranas*, or sacred books of India, respecting the British Isles.—From these we learn, that the name of the British Isles in the Hindoo books is '*Tricatachel*, or *the mountain with three peaks*: for the *Puranas* consider all islands as so many mountains, the lower parts of which are covered by the sea.' England is called *Rajata-Dweep*, or *Sneta-Dweep*; i. e. '*The White Island*'; Albion. Ireland is called '*Suvarna-Dweep*, which signifies the *golden island*—also, *beautiful*, *excellent*: and, in this sense, *Suvarna-Dweep*, or *Suwarda-Cuta*, is perfectly synonymous with *Sucuta*, or *Scuta*. *Suvarna*, or *Swarna*, being an adjective noun, it cannot be used alone, unless in a derivation form, as *Suvarneya*, or *Swarneya*;' and such, in my opinion, (says the author) is the origin of *Juvernica* and *Juernia*!—We certainly cannot admire such a wild species of etymology.—But who would have sought for St. Patrick's purgatory in the *Puranas*? Yet there it is, gentle reader! See page 58 of the present tract.

ART. XXXVI. *Letters to W. Wilberforce, Esq.*

[Concluded from Page 491.]

OUR author having shewn that no evidence in support of the hereditary depravity of mankind can be legitimately deduced from scripture; and that those passages, which Mr. Wilberforce has manifestly mistaken for a cloud of witnesses, are dissipated like mists, as he approaches and penetrates them; proceeds to examine the merits of the arguments which Mr. W. has urged from experience and observation.

The first of these is drawn from the universal and permanent wickedness which is seen in the world: to which our author

replies, that if the fact were admitted in its utmost extent, we might yet deny that an original depravity was imbibed in consequence of Adam's transgression, and pertinently attribute the appearance to that progressive depravity to which humanity is prone. But he observes, that we are not under the obligation of making such large concessions:—that in the midst of the greatest excesses and most flagrant immoralities, much good is still visible: and that every attentive spectator will contemplate a great variety of excellent qualities diffused over the human species.

Mr. W. has instanced the humours and froward dispositions of children as proofs of his hypothesis. To these our author opposes the innocence, simplicity, and amiableness habitual to them: and ascribes the greater part of this frowardness to a perverse education from the earliest infancy. He produces the striking passage of scripture, in which Jesus, speaking of little children, asserts, that *of such is the kingdom of heaven*; and concludes with observing, that the sacred writings speak as frequently and as copiously of righteousness, uprightness, perfection, and purity of heart observable among mankind, as they are free in their corrections and reproofs at the instances of degeneracy.

In the fourth letter, our author approaches yet more closely the system of hereditary depravity, and ventures to examine without reserve, whether it be consistent with reason or common sense.

Mr. W. he says, must allow that this total degeneracy of our nature can only be ascribed to one or other of the following causes:—it must have proceeded from an absolute decree of heaven, or arbitrary exertion of divine power, introducing some immediate and miraculous change in the very constitution of our first parents, in consequence of their conduct;—or from the agency of an evil spirit possessing inherent powers, or receiving permission from God, to contaminate the parent stock and the germs of existence with every evil principle;—or the change itself must have taken place by the operation of some physical cause; that is, there must have been some natural relation between the offence of our first parents and the degenerate effects ascribed to it.

The first of these positions, our author asserts, does not appear to be maintained by any advocate for Mr. W.'s system. The whole blame is universally laid upon man, and the consequences of his disobedience are considered as a just punishment for the abuse of his free-will.

This answer, however, does not appear to us to be by any means a satisfactory method of invalidating the position: the whole blame may be universally laid upon man, and yet the degeneracy of our natures might have proceeded from an arbitrary exertion of divine power, introducing some immediate
and

and miraculous change in the very constitution of our first parents, in consequence of their misconduct.

With respect to the second position our author observes, that no other power than that of seduction is attributed to Satan.

He next considers at some length, whether the phenomenon can be explained by the influence of physical causes; and determines in the negative. Under this head he remarks, that we perceive something in the brute creation strongly resembling those propensities which constitute the vices and imperfections of men. Did the ruins of the fall, he asks, extend to these also?—Did it impart to the scorpion its *deadly* sting?—If St. Paul's representation of the fall be admitted, we must answer in the affirmative; for without Adam's transgression *death* would have had no place.

He proceeds to consider the subject metaphysically; and concludes the fourth letter by briefly showing that the doctrine of hereditary depravity is equally inconsistent with some other theological tenets, which are also deemed sacred by its supporters.

In the fifth letter the author examines the other part of Mr. W.'s doctrine, relating to the *punishments* to which the hereditary sinner is exposed. This sentence of condemnation consists of three parts, making him "liable to all the miseries of this life;—to death itself;—and to the pains of hell for ever."

The chief objection to which our author exposes himself in this part of his answer, is that of adopting too *rational* an explanation of the subject, and one which it would not perhaps be very easy to reconcile with the history of the fall, as it stands related by St. Paul.

The sixth and last letter chiefly states an outline of some additional arguments, which might be urged against Mr. W.'s system.

Upon the whole, we think that the present publication deserves Mr. Wilberforce's most serious attention; and we hope that he will take into consideration our author's arguments in a future edition of his work.

T. E.

ART. XXXVII. *Two Sermons preached before the University of Oxford Feb. 10, 1799. An Attempt to explain, by recent Events, Five of the Seven Vials mentioned in the Revelation: and an Inquiry into the scriptural Signification of the word Bara.* By G. S. Faber, A.M. Fellow of Lincoln College, Oxford. 8vo. 80 pages. Price 2s. Rivingtons. 1799.

How long will our theologians risk their reputation in commenting on a book, whose author is not known, (for that it was written by the apostle John has not yet been sufficiently proved,) which was not admitted into the more early canons of scripture, and which, at any rate, to use the words of Jerome,

has as many mysteries as words. What various and jarring systems have been invented to elucidate those *mysteries*, particularly since the era of the reformation? and how many great men have shipwrecked their literary fame upon the shoals of the Apocalypse!

Our author pretends to no originality of invention: he puts himself under the guidance of Mede, the two Newtons, and Warburton; and, under their auspices, 'has no fear of incurring the imputation of fancifulness or enthusiasm!'

In general, he assents to Bishop Newton's interpretation of the prophecies; but was induced to take up the subject where the bishop concluded; and recent events 'almost compelled' his attention to the last plagues, which, according to Newton's system, remain unaccomplished, 'No æra, (says Mr. F.) seems more deserving of prophecy than the present; the wise providence of God is manifestly at work upon the earth; and every circumstance evinces the near approach of the second advent of the Messiah.' This has been the language of every succeeding age from that of the apostles downward. Pope Gregory I., commonly called the Great, expressed his belief that the end of the world was then at hand: and many other fathers entertained a similar opinion. Almost in our own days, Jurieus, Whiston, and twenty others saw the same event fast approaching—and some of them lived long enough to see the futility of their predictions.

Although Mr. F. seems to be convinced of the proximity of the second advent of Christ, he allows that 'many great events still remain unaccomplished, which must take place before the day of judgment.' Among these are the conversion and restoration of the Jews, which he thinks 'must be comprehended under the *sixth* vial.'

But to come to the *five* vials.—At the pouring out of vial 1. there fell a grievous sore upon the men who had the mark of the beast—this sore is 'the spirit of licentiousness and irreligion, which first issued from the infernal cave of Voltaire and his associates;' for which the author appeals to Barruel's *Memoirs of Jacobinism*. 'The two next vials describe almost graphically the miserable consequences of the *grievous sore* produced by the first:—namely, distracted France became *as the blood of a dead man*; and *where every living soul died in the sea*. France then is the sea. But, *the rivers and fountains of waters*, which became blood when the third vial was poured out, are the smaller states, or new republics established by France.

The fourth vial is poured out upon the sun, to whom *power is given to scorch men with fire*. This *sun* is still the *French nation*. 'The vial (says Mr. F.) which is poured out upon this mystical sun, gives it a power to scorch men with fire. Is it possible

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sible that a more striking and apposite description can be given of the miseries brought by the progress of the French arms upon Europe?

The fifth vial, poured out *upon the seat of the beast*, is the downfall of papal tyranny—as every body knows.

P. 32.—‘Hitherto,’ says our preacher, ‘these remarkable prophecies appear to have been recently accomplished; the sixth vial remains yet to be poured out, that the water of the great river Euphrates may be dried up, to prepare a way for the kings of the East. Whether it be the literal, or a mystical Euphrates, remains as yet concealed in the bosom of futurity. If, however, one may venture, without the appearance of presumption, to hazard a conjecture, “the kings of the East” may perhaps allude to some oriental power destined to effect the downfall of the Othman empire. There is a remarkable analogy throughout between the effects of the seven trumpets and seven vials. The sixth trumpet clearly relates to the establishment of the Turkish dominion; the sixth vial may possibly predict its destruction.

‘Upon the whole, it is not unreasonable to conclude, that the period is fast approaching, when heaven and earth shall pass away, and when we shall all be summoned before the tribunal of Christ. He himself, at the close of the Apocalypse, declares, “Surely I come quickly.” May we all, like St. John, be enabled to answer him with a good conscience, “Even so, come Lord Jesus.” After the accomplishment of the prophecy comprehended under the sixth vial, it is intimated that the effusion of the seventh will be coincident with the final dissolution of all things. The vials are called the seven *last* plagues, and the pouring out of the seventh is succeeded by “a great voice out of the temple of heaven from the throne, saying, *It is done.*”

The subject of the second sermon is a defence of those interpreters who find in the Hebrew word *BARA*, the idea of *creating out of nothing*. It is chiefly levelled at Dr. Geddes, who had in his preface to the pentateuch, maintained the contrary. ‘The arguments, (says he) to prove that *BARA* signifies to make something out of nothing, may be reduced into three classes. The internal evidence derived from a careful examination of the context—the opinion of the Jews—and the authority of the versions.’

His internal evidence consists chiefly in this, that the particle *אֵת* before *הַשָּׁמַיִם* signifies *substance*; and consequently, the first verse of Genesis should be rendered, *In the beginning God created the very substance of the heavens, and the very substance of the earth*. We believe it will not cost Dr. Geddes much trouble to overturn this argument. But we leave the controversy to themselves.

The authority of the Jews, especially the more modern Jews, is, we confess, of little force with us, in point of philology. Marmonides’s distinction between *בְּרָא עֲשֵׂה* and *כָּנָה*, proves nothing: and Mr. F.’s “cloud of Jewish witnesses” will, we apprehend, be easily dissipated,

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With respect to the antient versions, we are clearly of opinion, that the words which they use to express BARA, as little signify *creation out of nothing*, as BARA itself. The most antient Greek translators render it sometimes by *ποιον*, sometimes by *επιζειν*; but neither of these signifies *to create out of nothing*. His quotation from Paul* appears to us to be very unlucky: as it might easily be turned against himself. Diodati was not a member of the church of Rome, he was an Italian calvinist. Nor is his testimony of any moment: as he spoke the theological system of his day; without examining the matter in a philological manner.

Although we think not highly of Mr. F.'s critical abilities, we must bear testimony to his orthodox zeal.

P. 10.—'Happy,' says he, 'shall I be, if my attempt to display the wonderful operations of the Most High should prove the means of rousing any of my countrymen from the lethargy of carelessness and insensibility, or the paralyzing numbness of Deism and Socinianism. One man gained over to the side of real religion, is a material acquisition to the cause, in which England is embarked. The sincerest Christians will not only be the best subjects, but an increase of their number affords the most rational ground to hope, that the God of Armies will be our protection. He, who cannot err, hath assured us, that the gates of Hell shall never prevail against his Church. May the genuine and scriptural doctrines of our venerable Reformers long continue to be the standard of the creed of Englishmen! and may we never suffer that form of sound words, which they have left us, to be perverted or explained away by sceptical ingenuity! We may then with exulting confidence exclaim, "If God be for us, who shall be against us?"'

ART. XXXVIII. *A Sermon preached at Little Wild Street, Nov. 27, 1798, in Commemoration of the great Storm in 1703.* By Robert Winter. Price 6d. Cadell.

A MODEST, pious sermon, containing a brief history of the dreadful storm it commemorates.

ART. XXXIX. *A Sermon preached before the East Stonehouse Foot Association.* By John Bidlake, A.B. Price 1s. Chapman.

A DECLAMATORY discourse, which would have been preached with more propriety by a minister of Joshua, than by a minister of Jesus Christ.

ART. XL. *A Discourse delivered in the Parish Church of Sheffield, on King Charles's Martyrdom, 30th of Jan. 1799.* Price 6d. Matthews.

* Heb. xi. 3.

Uses of an Evil Spirit.—Ingram's *Syllabus of polit. Philosophy*. 635

THIS discourse is to enforce the *duty* of paying taxes, and the preacher states this to be a duty of high moral obligation. To contribute to the support of a *good* government, is a duty of moral obligation. We would propose a question for the discussion of this preacher—Is it a duty of moral obligation to pay taxes imposed by the French directory?

ART. XLI. *A Sermon preached at St. John's, Wakefield, for the Benefit of the Choir of the said Church, Dec. 16, 1798.* By the Rev. Samuel Clapham, M.A. 8vo. Price 1s. Glendenning.

THIS discourse is not destitute of animation; but though it appears to have been published by request, we conceive it better calculated to please its *hearers* than its readers. The text is, "Sing unto the Lord all the earth!"

ART. XLII. *The Political and Moral Uses of an Evil Spirit. Book the second.* By G. H. Leycester, M. A. of Merton College, Oxford. 8vo. p. 70. Price 2s. Egerton. 1799.

THIS lively author traces with some smartness, the good effects which have arisen from the introduction of evil; and as the devil is the great agent of evil, according to vulgar apprehension, he thence deduces proofs of the usefulness of this important personage. This argument he endeavours to treat in the way of wit and humour; but we must observe to the author, that his wit is too trite either to excite admiration or to convey pleasure. Wit fascinates by its novelty; but wit, at second hand, is not like water converted into wine, but like wine converted by the human system into water—stale, and unfit for the use of man or beast.

ART. XLIII. *A Syllabus or Abstract of a System of political Philosophy; to which is prefixed a Dissertation recommending that the Study of political Economy be encouraged in the Universities, &c.* By R. A. Ingram, B. D. 76 pages. Price 1s. 6d. Debrett. 1799.

THE studies of religion and politics are, doubtless, of the highest importance to mankind, and, if they could be cultivated at the universities with success, they would deserve to be ranked as a principal part of academical education. They are neither of them entirely neglected in the university of Cambridge, into which place it is the object of this author to introduce a more particular study of the latter. The lectures on the thirty-nine articles are attended by a great number of students, and those
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on modern history, founded by George the First, with the express view of qualifying young men of the higher ranks for diplomatic life, are given, we believe, never to a less number than the quota allowed by the university. These latter lectures are not open to every student, and the reason of the exclusion of the great body of under graduates will, if well founded, be a strong argument against the introduction of public lectures on the general subjects of politics. Whatever apparent disadvantages, however, might oppose the admission of *public* political lectures into the university, yet when given, on the plan suggested by this writer, to bachelors and masters of arts, both the university and the public would, we are persuaded, derive from them great benefit. The author in his preface has offered himself, with becoming modesty, to the university, to give the course laid down in this syllabus. Few are better qualified for this purpose, if we may judge from the specimens which he gave of his talents when he obtained the first honors of the university, and from the proofs which he has given of application to this science in subsequent publications. If the proposal which he has made should not be accepted, his time will be well employed in digesting the articles of this syllabus, which we recommend to all who wish to study political philosophy in the order it deserves: and if it should meet with another edition, we recommend to the writer, to add references to the authors which a student should consult on each article.

ART. XLIV. *Estimate of the Produce of the Tax upon Income, with a few Observations on the Impolicy of the Measure.* London, printed by John Lambert. 1799.

FROM the account delivered to the House of Commons, of the number of persons who pay assessed taxes, the writer calculates, in a very ingenious manner, the probable amount of the present tax upon income. According to his statement, the nett produce will be 6,279,222l. ; so that the annual expenditure of the state bears a considerable proportion to the income of the people. The question will soon be decided by authority, and the determination is of great importance, as it may lead to a very different mode of calculating both the wealth and the welfare of the nation.

ART. XLV. *The State of the Nation with respect to its Public Funded Debt, Revenue, and Disbursement, comprized in the Reports of the Select Committee on Finance (with the Appendix to each Report) appointed by the House of Commons: also an Inquiry into the Receipts, and Disbursements of the different Public Offices, &c., the Names of the Public Officers, their Salaries,*

Salaries, Fees, Duties, and Attendance, &c. Vol. III. 8vo. 366 pages. Price 6s. Symonds 1799.

THIS is a respectable continuation of a very valuable work, which the future historian of this country will peruse with profit. It contains the Reports of the Committee of Finance, and an Inquiry into the Receipts and Disbursements of the different Public Offices. We are glad to see advertised, as in great forwardness, a fourth volume; and if the work increase with the public expenditure, we may anticipate a very voluminous series of it.

ART. XLVI. *Remarks on the Explanation lately published by Dr. Priestley, respecting the intercepted Letters of his Friend and Disciple, H. Stone, &c.* By Peter Porcupine. 1s. Wright.

RELIGION and Politics are the two great topics on which men of *genius* exercise their talents; and professors of these sciences, of lofty pretensions, abound in every country. In the first of these walks of literature, England has her Huntington, and in the last, America her Cobbett. Huntington, the coal-heaver, has his sect here, and Cobbett, of kindred education and talent, has his sect beyond the Atlantic.

Let the venerable monarchy and the new-born republic, alike rejoice in their endowments, and boast the intelligence of their subjects and citizens!

O language! dear to truth, to genius, to liberty! how dost thou blush to proclaim the disgrace of thy sons, and to express the low and vulgar nonsense, the foul and gross calumny of this hedgehog, who, in a lucid interval, has given himself a name! O sacred language! violated by russian touch! with what indignation will thine admirers hear, that *fifteen volumes* are the production of this Porcupine's unnatural commerce with thee!

ART. XLVII. *Constitutional Strictures on particular Positions advanced in the Speeches of the Right Hⁿ. William Pitt, in the Debates which took Place on the Union between Great Britain and Ireland, on the 23d and 31st of January, 1799.* By Willoughby Earl of Abingdon. Price 1s. Barnes.

ALAS, there are unbelievers every where. Even the house of lords is not without them. Lord Abingdon declares himself an infidel. He does not believe, he did not believe during the American war, nay, he even then declared his unbelief, (he is not therefore converted by the French revolution,) in the omnipotence and infallibility of parliament, nay, nor of King and parliament united. This is a heresy which Henry the Eighth would
not

638 Drennan's *second Letter to the Right Hon. William Pitt.*

not have thought it right to tolerate. But we live in tolerant times. We do not disapprove of the honest heresy of the noble Lord, but we cannot recommend his pamphlet as a model of profound and logical discussion. From our tribunal we dismiss him to be tried by his *peers*.

ART. XLVIII. *Letters on the Subject of Union, in which Mr. Jebb's 'Reply' is considered.* By a Barrister and Member of Parliament. Price 1s. Wright. 1799.

THIS pamphlet, like most others on the same subject, abounds with assertions, and is destitute of argument. What our author says upon the competency of the Irish parliament, is a mere appeal to precedent, to the utter neglect of whatever respects the rights of nature and of mankind.

ART. XLIX. *The Speech of the Right Hon. John Foster, Speaker of the House of Commons of Ireland, on Thursday, 11th April, 1799.* Price 1s. Robinsons.

QUINTILIAN very gravely discusses the question, whether an orator must necessarily be a good man. Certainly, for all the purposes of temporary effect, it is not necessary that the orator should be either good or sincere; it is only necessary that he should be thought so. In the speech before us, we find two individuals in high office, possessing great powers of language, and much influence in the parliaments of their respective nations, mutually accusing each other—on one side, of an inconsistency little reconcilable with an honest mind, and on the other, of a misrepresentation incompatible with good intent. Which of the two statesmen are we to credit? Both are orators: both are believed and supported by their respective partisans: and, like the jansenist and the jesuit doctors, they divide between them the suffrages of an admiring multitude. Must we suspend our attention to their harangues, in order to decide upon the question of Quintilian? No! accomplished Roman, it is not necessary that an orator should be a *good man*: the evidence is conclusive from the records of thy nation and of our own!

ART. L. *A second Letter to the Right Hon. William Pitt.* By Dr. Drennan. Dublin. Printed by Folingsby. 1799.

It was impossible for us, after the proofs we had seen of the genius of Dr. Drennan in what he had before published, not to look with eagerness into this second letter. His first * dif-

* See Analytical Review, page 154.

played a fertility of fancy and a richness of colouring, seldom seen in the pages of English literature, and this letter, unequal to the former in happiness of allusion, splendor of metaphor, and accuracy and proportion of parts, yet discovers the same ever active and boundless fancy, though frequently exerting its energies with a force wild and irregular, undisciplined by the sober hand of judgment, and unsubmitive to the rigid laws of argumentative discussion. In one particular we think this composition peculiarly liable to censure, we mean in the epigrammatic point which the author has endeavoured to introduce into almost every sentence, and for whose sake he never disdains the most obvious or vulgar pun. Such a style is more suited to the office of those whose aim it is to ridicule the current absurdities of the day, and "catch the follies living as they rise," than to the talents and situation of Dr. Drennan—the grave statesman, surrounded with all the serious horrors of civil war, alive to the sorrows and the interests of his country, and propounding a scheme for the security of her constitution, of her freedom and of her peace. We call upon Dr. D. to check the effervescence of his rich and pregnant fancy, whilst he is the advocate of a country in mourning and in tears, and to be more solicitous to impress shame upon her enemy, than to produce a titter in his readers by his smartness and his wit. We exercise this freedom with the less reserve, because we have already expressed, and are prepared again to express, in terms not less strong and forceful, our admiration of the genius of this eloquent man.

Dr. D.'s scheme, proposed in this letter, is, from the sons of our most gracious sovereign and theirs, to select a King of Ireland; and thus to unite, by a family compact, by the reciprocity of benefit, of feeling, and of intercourse, the sister kingdoms. And thus would this provident physician heal the wounds of his country, reconcile royalism and republicanism, Foster and Castlereagh, Pitt and O'Connor. Whether this prescription be suitable or not to the case of Ireland, may be a question of rather difficult decision; but we may easily persuade ourselves, that whether suitable or not, it is a prescription which the state apothecaries, ordinary and extraordinary, will never be prevailed upon to administer.

ART. LI. *An Examination into the Origin of the Discontents of Ireland, and the true Cause of the Rebellion, &c.* By William Bingley. 4to. 48 pages. Price 2s. 6d. Sold by the Editor. 1799.

MR. BINGLEY ascribes the late rebellion to the oppression exercised in Ireland in collecting the tithes. His plan is to abolish the tithes, and to substitute in their place payments in money

money to the full value of the late actual receipts. The plan is fair, and we believe the motive good which actuates the writer. No one can read this narrative, without sickening with horror at the oppression which is here said to have been exercised in Ireland *in the name of christianity*, and by its *pretended ministers*. To hope that these relations are erroneous, is to obey the dictates of charity (which hopeth all things): for to believe them is to credit charges upon the preachers of a mild religion, more dreadful than any with which infidels have laboured to stigmatize it. Ministers of Jesus, if such your conduct, ye are they who plead the cause of atheism, and prepare men to receive it!

ART. LII. *Tables of Interest, calculated at 5 per Cent; shewing at one View the Interest of every Sum, from £.1 to £.365: also carried on by hundreds to £.1000, and by thousands to £.10,000, from one Day to one hundred Days. To which are added, Tables of Interest from one to twelve Months.* By Joseph King, Accountant, Liverpool. 8vo. 227 pages. Price 8s. Richardson. 1796.

THE ample title page of this work precludes the necessity of our enlarging upon its contents: its execution appears accurate: and its utility so far at least superior to that of other works of a similar kind, in that it shews 'by one reference, what in other tables cannot be found without two or three references.'

ART. LIII. *A Theoretical and Practical Grammar of the French Tongue, in which the present Usage on Pronunciation, Orthography, and the Rules of Syntax, is developed, and all great difficulties cleared up, according to the Decisions of the French Academy.* By M. de Levizac. 12mo. 400 pages. Price 4s. bound. Dulau. 1799.

M. LEVIZAC's talents, as an accurate and scientific grammarian, have already been pretty universally acknowledged; and it was with no small prepossession in their favour, that we anticipated the application of these talents to the important object professed in the present publication.

'In order to insure to this work,' says its author, 'the greatest possible degree of utility, I have, in imitation of the most celebrated grammarians, as well as of the academy, suppressed every thing foreign to the genius of our language; and I have been particularly careful to give, in the most plain and perspicuous manner, the only rules we acknowledge, and to admit the only denominations we avow. I have given the grammar which has long been taught in the university of Paris, and not the grammar of the Grecians and Latinists of the last and the beginning of the present century.—It will not, therefore, appear surprising, that I should continue to prescribe that multitude of *articles*, and those denominations of *cases*, which the want of knowledge

ledge of the real genius of our language had introduced, and which, in fact, did only impede the progress and retard the unfolding of our ideas.

We highly approve of the general plan and execution of this work; and the few occasions on which we have seen reason to differ from our author's decision of speculative points, or of questions relating to the theory of *universal* grammar, are by no means of sufficient importance to induce us to detract from our commendation of it as the most satisfactory introduction to the principles and genius of the French language which we at present possess. On all disputed subjects, the author pays implicit deference to the decisions of the academy; and however some of these decisions may admit controversy, we certainly approve of his reasons for waving it on the present occasion. In the following passage we wish he had supported this authority more strenuously.

'We have observed,' he says, p. 279, 'that two singulars require the verb in the plural; but the academy, in their "Observations upon Vaugelas," think, that with *l'un & l'autre*, as well as with *ni l'un ni l'autre*, we may indifferently use the singular or the plural; and it is still its opinion. Nevertheless, the present practice seems to us to be for using the plural only. It is the same with *ni* repeated, with two nouns. But as for the disjunctive *ou*, there can be no difficulty, and we say—*l'un ou l'autre viendra avec moi.*'

Doubtless there ought to be no more difficulty in determining the syntax in the former case than in the latter: and if the decision of the academy, in this instance, be liable to any objection, it is rather for admitting the use of the plural on any occasion, than for authorising that of the singular. We have alluded to this subject here more particularly, because relating to an error which corresponds with one too little regarded by many, even among the most accurate, of our own writers. In general, M. L.'s manner is highly commendable for perspicuity; his attention to this quality, so desirable in a practical grammarian, is not, however, altogether uniform in the volume before us. As one instance wherein it has failed him, we notice his definition and illustration of *syllèpsis*, p. 344.

The author has adverted with great advantage on many occasions to the relative forms of construction in the French and English languages. His references to authority are always respectable; his examples are pertinent and instructive; his rules are well defined; and his arrangement, though capable of considerable improvement in a future edition, generally judicious.

ART. LIV. *A short Introduction to English Grammar. In two separate Volumes. Volume the first, or Scholar's Book, contains, Part I. A concise Explanation of the Parts of Speech: Parts II. and III. The Variations and other Circumstances attending each Part of Speech, enlarged on progressively; with*
T t *Exercises,*

Exercises, disposed in such a Manner as to make the Scholars apply every Particular they have learned concerning the different Words. To which is added an Appendix, including Directions for parsing, &c. &c. Volume the Second, or Instructress's Book, contains, The Manner of Exercising and Interrogating the Scholars throughout their Lessons and Exercises, &c. so as to ground them in what they learn. By Blanch Mercy, Small 8vo. 2 Vols. 156 pages. Price 3s. 6d. bound. Law. 1799.

THOUGH we do not expect to meet with many real improvements in every new grammar or school-book which issues from the press, yet we are pleased at their appearance, as it indicates the assiduity of those engaged in the business of instruction; and when so many teachers are ambitious to shew themselves well informed in their profession, the interests of education must be advanced. The reader is already furnished with an analysis of the work before us in the title page; and we shall only subjoin, that the author's plan appears to be a good one, namely, to give the pupil little to learn by heart, but much to put in practice.

ART. LV. *Réponse à M. L'Abbé Levizac, grand Vicaire de ***; ou, Défense des Anciens Maîtres de Londres, et de quelques Grammaires publiées avant la sienne. Par M. Duverger. Small 8vo. stitched. 39 pages. Price 1s. Wallis. 1799.*

ART. LVI. *A Dialogue between Mr. N——z and his Friend, both French Emigrant Priests, and Teachers of the French Language: Mr. N——z as an Usber, and his Friend as a private Master. Containing some severe Animadversions on Duverger's Works. Small 8vo. 20 pages. Price 6d. Wallis. 1799.*

WE connect these two articles, as they relate to the same topic, and apparently proceed from the same quarter. Mr. Duverger, naturally enough, takes great umbrage at the contemptuous manner in which the French masters, resident in London previous to the revolution, as well as their works, have been treated by Mr. de Levizac, and in order to repel this charge, and vindicate his colleagues and himself, he institutes a comparison between the Abbe's grammar and his own. Leaving these gentlemen to adjust their respective pretensions, we shall only observe that in the general merit of perspicuity, method, and elegance of composition, it is commonly allowed that Mr. Levizac stands without a rival among either his predecessors or his contemporaries. The Dialogue, as well as Mr. D.'s Epistle to the emigrant priests, is entirely ironical, and with some pleasantry,
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and too much truth, exposes the manner in which French is taught in many of the seminaries about town.

ART. LVII. *The Balnea: or, an Impartial Description of all the popular Watering Places in England; interspersed with Original Sketches, and Incidental Anecdotes, &c.* By G. S. Carey. 12mo. 228 pages. Price 3s. 6d. West. 1799.

THERE is a degree of pertness and flippancy about this book which is very disgusting: Mr. Carey treats the public like an old acquaintance, with whom he may shake hands and crack jokes without any diffidence or reserve; we are not disposed to encourage such forwardness and familiarity. Nay so interested does he consider us in his private affairs, that either three or four times he obtrudes upon our patience his disputes with Mr. Dibdin: what have we to do with the quarrels of Tweedledum and Tweedledee? As to Mr. Carey's description of the popular watering places, so far as it goes, we have no reason to question its accuracy: on the contrary we have some reason to confide in it; we are no great rambles, but in the course of our lives have visited three or four of them, and of those three or four Mr. Carey speaks with sufficient correctness: but what is to be expected from a description of eighteen watering places, the whole of which is found room for in two hundred and twenty small duodecimo pages?

Mr. Carey has taken this opportunity to declare himself the author of two very pretty songs, which, it seems, have been attributed to some other gentleman: the "Disconsolate Sailor," and "Allen Brook of Wyndermere." These, with a few others of Mr. Carey's composition, are introduced in the volume.

ART. LVIII. *Dancing Masteriana, or Biographic Sketches for an inquisitive Public; being the true Style of a Dancing Master exhibiting his Pupils by an elegant Ball. To which are added five Letters, none of which have any thing to do with the Dancing Master's Ball.* 8vo. 32 pages. Price 1s. Printed for the Author, (Bryan Blundell.) 1799.

THE first ten pages of this pamphlet might, perhaps, have been circulated in Liverpool, without impropriety: they are addressed to the Mayor of that town, in his official capacity, by Mr. Blundell, who claims, as his Father's executor, the sum of £.375 from the corporation, in consideration of what he considers to have been an unfair estimate and purchase made of his father's property, by a select committee appointed by that corporation. We are not acquainted with the characters personified in the 'Corporation Ball:' possibly it is for this reason that we can discover neither wit nor humor in it.

Mr. B. it seems, belonged to a volunteer corps at Liverpool from which, on some account or other, he was dismissed: the consequence of this dismissal was the publication of a pamphlet, copies of which he sent to Mr. Courtenay, Mr. Windham, and his Royal Highness the Duke of York. These letters, together with two others relating to the same affair, fill up the measure of this pert, insignificant pamphlet. Mr. B. has, indeed, tacked a few verses together at the close of his book, as a specimen of his poetical abilities: they are addressed to the public, and begin thus:

‘ I scorn the mean brute, who cringing and supple
Will take up with meanness, to insult will knuckle.’

From this, which is a very sufficient specimen, our readers will agree with us, that if Mr. B. was not better qualified for a soldier than he is for a poet, he richly deserved to be drummed out of the regiment.

ART. LIX. *A new Catalogue of living English Authors, with a complete List of their Publications and biographical and critical Memoirs.* Vol. I. 8vo. Price 7s. Clarke. 1799.

THE characteristic of this work is, its reference to *living authors* only. We confess that we are at a loss to discover the utility of such a publication. Sterne says to a lady adorning herself, ‘ whilst thou art twisting that lock, behold it turns grey.’ We may apply the remark to the author of this work: whilst it is yet printing, behold its characteristic is lost; the *living authors* cease to live. We repeat it, we see no use in such a compilation. Does any one want to see a catalogue of authors, he looks into the Reviews; or does he wish to see criticisms on the works they have published, he applies to the same source. As to the volume before us, the biography is contemptible, the criticism trifling, and the list of books incomplete.

ART. LX. *Biographia Medica; or, Historical and Critical Memoirs of the Lives and Writings of the most eminent Medical Characters that have existed from the earliest Account of Time to the present Period; with a Catalogue of their Literary Productions.* By Benjamin Hutchinson, Member of the Medical Society of London, of the Physical Society of Guy's Hospital, and of the London Company of Surgeons. 2 Vols. 8vo. Price 16s. Johnson. 1799.

‘ To preserve memoirs of illustrious men,’ observes our author, pref. p. v, ‘ is discharging an act of justice to departed merit, and may prove the means of exciting the active genius of modest and unassuming superiority of mental endowments to the exertion of talents, which may be found beneficial to mankind. With these views biography unfold.’

unfolds the different talents of every age, and exhibits the numerous natural, and acquired excellencies of distinguished characters. Actuated by these motives, and anxious to obtain a more complete history of the origin and progress of Medical Science, the Compiler has been induced to undertake a work, which he trusts will not be unacceptable; being intended to contain some account of most medical men, who have been sufficiently distinguished to merit such a memorial of their abilities; it will, therefore, naturally include a history of the most remarkable, and the most interesting circumstances; an account of the progress of Physic, Surgery, Anatomy, Midwifery, Pharmacy, Chemistry, Botany, and of every department of philosophical science connected with medicine; and an abstract of the opinions and principles, by which the medical world has been influenced in all its extent and duration.

* The Compiler has been particularly attentive, to do justice to the learned and ingenious of all countries, whose public works, or private professional characters, are held in high estimation. In the execution of this plan he has not recurred to Dictionaries* only, nor contented himself with supplying the defects of one Dictionary from another, and cutting off the redundancies of all; but every thing has been collected from the different performances which contained materials relative to the plan. For an account of the writings of authors, recourse should be had to their works; and for that of their lives, to the best memoirs that are extant.*

We cannot give our sanction to these declarations. The work is a compilation chiefly made from the General Biographical Dictionary, the *Biographia Britannica*, Aikin's *Biographical Memoirs of Medicine*, Nicholl's *Anecdotes of Bowyer*, Pulteney's *Account of English Botany*, the eulogies in the later volumes of the *Hist. de l'Acad. Roy. des Sciences*, and the lives of some later authors prefixed to their works. 'For an account of the writings of authors,' as Mr H. justly observes, 'recourse should be had to their works,' but we do not find in these volumes any traces of medical reading. In the title page we are promised a catalogue of their works, but the reader who trusts to this promise will meet with frequent disappointments. The lives of Alston, De Haen, Eustachius, Ray, Sauvages, Scheele, Sharpe, Stohl, Van Swieten, Wiseman, Rheede, Rumphius, Dale, Columna, Catesby, Wallerius, are not to be found, and those of Morgagni and Frederic Hoffman scarcely occupy a page, and the character of Alex. Monro is given from Lavater's view of his portrait! In a letter of Dr. Darwin's, inserted at p. 245, we are told that Mr. Darwin 'was unfortunately acquainted with a German student of the name of Sæmmering!' Could Dr. D. or Mr. H. be ignorant that this student is one of the most distinguished anatomists of Germany? Should however an in-

* To the authors of that useful work, the General Biographical Dictionary, in 8vo. the author acknowledges particular obligations.*

dulgent public call for a second edition of this very imperfect performance, we recommend the editor to go on translating the remaining eloges contained in the *Hist. de l'Acad. des Sciences*, in those of Berlin, &c. and always to inform the reader at the end of each article whence it was compiled. We recommend to him also to make use of Haller's *Bibliothecæ* and Hoffman's *Lexicon*, and in the arrangement of the work, we should prefer a chronological to an alphabetical arrangement.

ART. LXI. *Further Observations on the Variolæ Vaccinæ, or Cow Pox.* By Edward Jenner, M. D. F. R. S. F. L. S. &c. 4to. Price 2s. 6d. Law. 1799.

DR. J. observes, that the mammæ and nipples of cows are subject to other maladies besides that which made the subject of his former pamphlet, and which, like that, 'are capable of giving a disease to the human body.'

P. 6.— Sarah Merlin, of the parish of Eastington in this county, when about thirteen or fourteen years of age lived as a servant with farmer Clarke, who kept a dairy consisting of about eighteen cows, at Stonehouse, a neighbouring village. The nipples and udders of three of the cows were extensively affected with large white blisters. These cows the girl milked daily, and at the same time she assisted with two others, in milking the rest of the herd. It soon appeared that the disease was communicated to the girl. The rest of the cows escaped the infection, although they were milked several days after the three above specified had these eruptions on the nipples and udders, and even after the girl's hand became sore. The two others who were engaged in milking, although they milked the cows indiscriminately, received no injury. On the fingers of each of the girl's hands there appeared several large white blisters, she supposes about three or four on each finger. The hands and arms inflamed and swelled, but no constitutional indisposition followed. The sores were anointed with some domestic ointment, and got well without ulcerating.

'As this malady was called the cow pox, and recorded as such in the mind of the patient, she became regardless of the small pox; but, on being exposed to it some years afterwards, she was infected, and had a full burthen.'

Whether any medical practitioner, or cow-leech, saw the patient, we are not told. This disease, our author observes, differs from the *variolæ vaccinæ*,

P. 8.—'in the numerous blisters which appeared on the girl's hands; their termination without ulceration; its not proving more generally contagious at the farm, either among the cattle, or those employed in milking,

and in the patient's feeling no general indisposition, although there was so great a number of vesicles. 'Those who attend cattle,' he says, 'observe that these white blisters on the nipples never eat into the fleshy parts like those which are commonly of a bluish cast, but that they affect the skin only, quickly end in scabs, and are not nearly so infectious.' Eruptions

tions also sometimes appear in consequence of the transition that the cow makes in the spring from a poor to a nutritious diet, and from the udder's becoming at this time more vascular than usual for the supply of milk.

P. 9.—A cow intended to be exposed for sale, having naturally a small udder, is previously for a day or two neither milked artificially, nor is her calf suffered to have access to her. Thus the milk is preternaturally accumulated, and the udder and nipples become greatly distended. The consequences frequently are, inflammation and eruptions which mature.

Whether a disease generated in this way has the power of affecting the constitution in any *peculiar* manner, I cannot presume positively to determine.

I have known the milkers affected by it, but always found that an affection thus induced left the system as susceptible of the small pox as before.

Dr. J. should have told us how the milkers were affected by it, and if this disease, or the *pemphigus vaccinus*, as the disease described above may be called, should fall under our author's notice, we hope he will not omit to describe and delineate them in the same manner in which he so well depicted the *variole vaccine* and *variole equine*, if it be allowable to consider the latter as a distinct disease. For we must observe, that though Baker* was inoculated from a pustule on the hand of Virgoe, yet it is only on circumstantial evidence that we are justified in suspecting that Virgoe contracted the disease from the heels of the mare, and not from cows. We have conjectured, that the sores of horses in those places where the cow pox prevails, may become cow pox sores by the application of the cow pox virus. Cole and Riddiford† might have contracted the disease from the horses at a time when the virus was in too advanced a state to render the constitution insusceptible of the small pox. It is incumbent on Dr. J. to ascertain the nature of this supposed disease, by causing a mare which suckles a colt to be milked by a person laboring under the cow pox, and observing if the nipples of the mare become affected with ulcers. He should endeavour to inoculate the nipples of a cow with the first discharge from the heels of a horse, in which the grease has recently made its appearance, and if he fail, he should apply cow pox virus to the heels of the horse, and at the end of six or ten days, apply the matter from the heels of the horse to the nipples of a sound cow. But to return, these observations of Dr. J. prove how careful we should be in distinguishing the different maladies known under the popular name of cow pox. But the safest course for practitioners to pursue, will be to make use of virus from the cow pox matter of the human sub-

* Inquiry p. 35. t. 2. † Anal. Rev. p. 554. ‡ Inquiry 28, 29.

ject, taking it from the pustules of the inoculated part as soon as a limpid fluid shall have appeared.

Dr. J. in confirmation of what he mentioned in his Inquiry, p. 56, respecting the inefficacy of inoculation in rendering the constitution insusceptible of the variolous poison, if the virus inserted had undergone a degree of putrefaction, inserts a letter from Mr. Earle, surgeon, at Frampton upon Severn. Mr. Kite; in the Mem. of the Med. Soc. iv. 120, gives us three cases in which inoculation, though followed by fever and eruptions which had every appearance of true variolous pustules, did not secure the patients from the casual small pox. The virus made use of was taken 'from a woman on the 15th day of the eruption, when all the other pustules were dried away.' Mr. E. inoculated five persons with matter taken from a small pox 'pustule in a state too far advanced,' but on what day of the eruption, or from what part of the body, we are not told. Eruptions appeared about the ninth day, but four of the patients afterwards took the casual small pox, one of whom died.

Three children also, in whom eruptions appeared in ten days in consequence of inoculation, being inoculated a second time, had all a very full burden. Mr. E. conjectures that the virus, which was procured from a friend, was not in a proper state.

P. 15.—'After this,' says Dr. J. 'ought we to be in the smallest degree surpris'd to find, among a great number of individuals, who by living in dairies have been casually exposed to the cow pox virus when in a state analogous to that of the small pox above described, some, who may have had the disease so imperfectly as not to render them secure from variolous attacks?'

Dr. Ingenhousz informed Dr. J. p. 3.—'That a farmer near Calne, in Wiltshire, had been infected with the small pox after having had the cow pox, and that the disease in each instance was so strongly characterized as to render the facts incontrovertible. The cow pox, it seems, from the Doctor's information, was communicated to the farmer from his cows at the time that they gave out *an offensive stench from their udders*.'

Dr. J. conjectures, that the farmer had been exposed to cow pox 'matter when it had undergone a putrefactive change.'

Dr. J. says that the sound skin does not appear to be susceptible of the virus of the *variola equina*, which, by the common people, is also frequently called the cow pox, when inserted into it, but that when the skin is previously diseased from little accidents, its effects are often conspicuous, but whether this opinion is the result of some experiments of his own which he has not related, or those made by Mr. Simmons, we are not informed*. He gives a case, communicated by Mr. Fewster,

* Baker readily took the infection. See Inquiry, p. 36.

of Thornbury, of *variola equina* in a man, in whom the disease made its appearance after dressing a horse which had the grease, and who had not milked a cow for more than half a year. Mr. F. has neglected to inform us whether the patient had had the small pox or cow pox.

Dr. J. says he has often failed in his endeavour to communicate the cow pox by inoculation.

P. 39.—‘An inflammation will sometimes succeed the scratch or puncture, and in a few days disappear without producing any further effect. Sometimes it will even produce an ichorous fluid, and yet the system will not be affected. The same thing we know happens with the small pox virus.’

‘Four or five † servants were inoculated with matter just taken from an infected cow. A little inflammation appeared on all their arms without producing a pustule.’ The matter was taken in a purulent state.

That the public may not reject inoculation with the cow pox virus, should it prove in some solitary instances not to have rendered the constitution insusceptible of small pox, Dr. J. gives us the case of Langford, published by Mr. Withers in the Mem. of the Med. Soc. iv. 186, who is said to have died of the small pox at the age of fifty, though he had had the disease when about a month old. Dr. J. speaks of this case as only one ‘among many others.’ We wish Dr. J. would take the trouble of communicating to the public all the other cases.

If it be admitted that confluent small pox will not always render the constitution insusceptible of small pox, are we to wonder that inoculated small pox should sometimes prove ineffectual? That the virus inserted had in these cases undergone some change from putrefaction, stands at present merely on the ground of conjecture.

Dr. J. inoculated twenty patients with cow pox matter from patients who had been inoculated with virus originally obtained from a cow in the neighbourhood of London. This matter proved more certainly infectious, and gave less disposition in the arm to inflame, and in one of the children three spots appeared on the face.

The measles did not prevent the action of the cow pox virus, both diseases going on together.

Dr. J. readily restrained the inflammation of the puncture when the virus of the cow pox had been inserted, either by a plaster of ung. hydrarg. fort. or lint dipped in aqua lithargyri acetati.

T.

† Does Dr. J. keep no notes of his experiments, or does he not distinctly remember whether he inoculated four or five?

ART. LXII. *A Treatise on Mortal Diseases; containing a particular View of the different Ways in which they lead to Death, and the best Means of preventing them, by Medical Treatment, from proving Fatal: Translated from the Latin, corrected, improved, and considerably enlarged, by the Author, Conrad George Ontyd, M.D. 8vo. Price 9s. Johnson. 1798.*

'This work,' the author informs us, p. 12, 'was first published in Latin, at Leyden, in 1797. In the present edition I have revised the whole, and from more mature reflection, from a great number of practical cases that have fallen under my observation since that time, from conversing with different practitioners, and from the observations of other physicians communicated to me since, I have been enabled to correct some of my former observations, and to make many improvements, and considerable additions. In fine, in this edition I express with more confidence some of my former remarks, and have omitted others, which I had advanced without sufficient foundation.

'Although I have ventured to offer this work to the public, yet I am very sensible of it's imperfections, for notwithstanding the greatest care and attention have been employed in collecting a sufficient stock of facts from the best sources, in comparing them together, and in drawing conclusions from a cautious and full induction, yet several inaccuracies and mistakes will no doubt have escaped me, which, on considering the extent and abundance of the matters to be noticed, they, I hope, will readily excuse, who, having themselves made researches of this kind, are not unacquainted with the difficulties attending them.

'Though I have occasionally mentioned the names of those medical gentlemen, who have favoured me with the communication of practical facts, yet I feel a particular pleasure on this occasion in giving a public testimony, how much I am obliged to my worthy preceptors, the professors in the different branches of medicine at the university of Leyden, for the many marks of kindness and friendship they have bestowed upon me, during my attending lectures at that university; and for the kind assistance they have afforded me in collecting materials for this work; which offices the author will always remember with gratitude, and with high esteem for their characters.

'I have also much satisfaction in acknowledging here the obligations I am under to Dr. J. G. Schæffer, physician-general to the Hanoverian troops, the military hospital of which was at Leyden in the year 1794, who, agreeably to the urbanity of his manners, and the philanthropy of his heart, readily permitted me to visit the patients, and thus furnished me with an opportunity of making many practical observations, exclusive of the important advantages I derived from assisting in the numerous dissections of patients, who died of different complaints, and thus observing the morbid appearances after death.

'For the sake of order I have adopted the following methodical arrangement.

'I divide the whole work into three parts.

'In

' In the first I treat of death; it's relation to health and sickness, and it's proximate and remote causes in general.

' In the second I consider those diseases, which bring on death by destroying the vital principle.

' In the third I take notice of the disorders, which occasion death, either by suppressing some function requisite to life, or by destroying some vital organ.'

Death, our author defines to be ' the extinction of the faculty of answering to a stimulus, so that an action may follow, which does not depend on the universal [general] principles of bodies.' The proximate cause of death he places in the destruction of the organisation of the body, and he is of opinion, that there are as many remote causes of death as there are causes which occasion the destruction of the organisation of the body, which may be effected (1) by the destruction of the life of the whole, or, (2) " by the removal or destruction of one or two of the links, without which the connection of the chain can no longer subsist." In tracing the various modes by which death is occasioned, he is led to treat of the symptoms and cure of most of those diseases which are occasionally followed by death. We do not think he has always succeeded in explaining how death is occasioned; but we have perused his work with much satisfaction, and we recommend it to our readers as a valuable addition to our medical English library. It affords the English reader a good view of the practice of the Dutch and Germans, with a sufficient admixture of British theory and practice to obtain him a favorable hearing. With Cullen he employs the term *vis medicatrix naturæ*, with Stohl he attributes more than we do to the constitution of the season, with Sydenham and Trallis he regards opium as the antidote to dysentery; and on the subject of jaundice he says, that to produce it, ' it suffices that certain determinate motions be communicated to the solids, not only from the bile, but also from many other stimuli, without the regurgitation of the bile into the blood; the vessels may be disposed in such a manner, that the whole sanguiferous system becomes changed as it were into an organ preparing a substance like bile.'

We hope our ingenious author will candidly review these doctrines, and, trusting more to his own observation, and less to the authority of great names, emancipate himself entirely from the shackles of theory, and present us, at a proper interval, with an improved edition of this useful, practical work.

ART. LXIII. *Descriptive Account of a new Method of treating Old Ulcers of the Legs.* By Thomas Baynton, Surgeon of Bristol. The Second Edition, enlarged, corrected, and considerably improved. 8vo. 152 pages. Price 3s. 6d. Bristol, Emery and Adams; London, Hurst. 1799.

As so full an account was given in the Anal. Rev. of the 1st. edition of this valuable treatise, we have only to say, that the author has enlarged the number of cases to 17, and that he has subjoined letters from Messrs. Home, Henry, Simmons of Manchester, Sandford and Shute, in confirmation of the efficacy of the plan of treatment laid down in the work. Mr. Henry says that 'ulcers which used to take five or six months in curing, are now healed in half the time,' and that the savings in the Manchester Infirmary, since Mr. B.'s method has been adopted, may be rated from 200l. to 300l. a year. Mr. Sandford thinks he has succeeded better 'where the adhesive plaister has not been spread over the center, but only at each end of the callico strips,' as under these circumstances those parts of the strips in contact with the ulcer, will more conveniently allow of the application of cold water, or any other humid application.

T.

ART. LXIV. *A Series of Engravings, accompanied with Explanations, which are intended to illustrate the Morbid Anatomy of some of the most important Parts of the Human Body, (fasciculus I.) comprehending the chief morbid Appearances of the Heart, and of the Aorta near its Origin.* By M. Baillie, M. D. F. R. S. &c. 4to. Johnson. 1799.

THAT much valuable knowledge of the morbid changes of structure in different parts of the human body, may be derived from well executed engravings, must be obvious to every one who has entered upon the study of Anatomy. Little assistance has, however, been offered in this way; we have not yet one regular work of the kind.

'Whatever,' says the author, 'has been hitherto done upon this subject, has been without any regular plan, and scattered over various works, some of which are expensive, and others difficult to be procured. It seemed to me, therefore, to be an important desideratum in anatomy, to comprehend in one work, upon some regular plan, engravings of the chief morbid changes of structure in the most essential parts of the human body, which are capable of illustration. I have, therefore, ventured to undertake such a work; but only propose to proceed in it a little way, till the opinion of the public with regard to it is collected. If that shall be favourable, it will encourage me to advance with earnest diligence, in an undertaking, both attended with difficulty and considerable expence: and if it shall be otherwise, there will at least be the comfort of reflecting that I have made an attempt to promote the cultivation of a science, upon which the health and life of mankind so immediately depend.'

The plan which the author has here in view, is that of representing with the utmost exactness such changes of structure as take place in the more important parts of the body. He proposes to remedy the defects of those who have chiefly exhibited

bited only the external appearance of morbid parts, by giving sections of such diseased parts.

'It is proposed,' says he, 'in the following work, to give engravings only of the principal morbid changes of structure affecting the most important parts of the human body, which are either capable of being illustrated, or of being more distinctly impressed upon the mind, by figures of them being exhibited to the eye. These will comprehend a large proportion of the chief diseased appearances of the thoracic and abdominal viscera, of the organs of generation in both sexes, and of the brain.

'The order of the engravings,' he further observes, 'will correspond very much with that of the description of diseased changes of structure in my book upon morbid anatomy; but the two works will be made independent of each other. The engravings will be accompanied with such a description, as to be perfectly understood, without any reference to the volume upon morbid anatomy; so that a person may possess one work, without being obliged to purchase the other. It is impossible to determine at present the exact limits of this work; but I think it may probably be comprehended in ten fasciculi, each of which will contain about five or sometimes six plates. Two fasciculi are intended to be published every year, if the public shall approve of the work; and I propose to publish two fasciculi as a trial of their opinion, the first of which comprehends the chief diseases of the head, and of the aorta, near the origin; and the second, the chief diseases of the lungs.'

The engravings are to be principally taken from the museums of the Hunters, and from preparations in the author's own collection.

The work is handsomely published in large quarto, and the engravings are executed with great exactness and elegance.

We hope the ingenious author will meet with sufficient encouragement to proceed in his very useful design.

ART. LXV. *Mentha Britannica*: being a new Botanical Arrangement of all the British Mints hitherto discovered. Illustrated with twenty-four Copper Plates of the natural size, done from the Life, by able Artists; exhibiting a Figure of every distinct Mint herein treated of, including all those enumerated by Ray and Hudson; together with several new Species hitherto unnoticed. By W. Sole. Fol. Bath, Cruttwell; London, White. 1798.

THIS is the most valuable publication which has hitherto appeared on this difficult genus, and does great credit to the author, who has been long known as a most indefatigable collector and cultivator of British plants. We admire the execution of the plates, and we intreat him to go on to illustrate the British flora on the same excellent plan. Those who unite with us in this wish, will best express their concurrence by immediately purchasing this very cheap publication. Should Mr. S.'s engagements allow him time, for we believe he still follows

his profession, which is that of an apothecary, we could wish that he would give detailed descriptions of each species, in Latin and English, in corresponding opposite columns. We could dispense too with English names engraved on the plates. But whatever Mr. S. can find time to give us will, we shall venture to say, meet with a favourable reception from the botanical world.

LITERARY INTELLIGENCE.

Foreign Publications imported by J. Remnant.

Æschyli, Eumenides. Specimen novæ recens. tragædiarum *Æschyli*, edit. G. Hermannus. 8vo. 2s. 1799.

Aristophanis, Invernezio. 2 vol. 8vo. 1l. 4s.

Idem liber. charta Hollandica. 2 vol. 8vo. bds. 1l. 16s.

— *Nubes*, cum scholiis, recens. et adnotat. I. A. Ernesti. Suaeque addidit G. Hermannus. 8vo. maj. bds. 8s.

Borbeck. Dr. A. C. Apparatus ad Herodotum intelligendum et interpretandum. vol. 1—5. 8vo. maj. bds. Lemgo. 1799. 1l. 17s. 6d.

Dictionnaire, nouveau, allem-françois et franc-allem. composé sur les Dictionnaires de l'Académie Française de M. l'Abbé Alberti de Villeneuve et les meilleurs vocabulaires des deux Nations, enrichi de tous les termes propres des sciences et des arts de même que des expressions de nouvelle création. Avec une table des verbes simples et primitifs irreg. de l'une et l'autre langue. Par Phil. Jaq. Ffathe. En 5 vol. gr. 8vo. bds. 3l. 3s. Leipzig. 1799.

Dictionnaire de Poche, ou Vocab. françois-allemand et allem-françois, tiré du Dictionnaire de Schwan. 12mo. bds. Leipzig. 1799. 7s. 6d.

Epicteti Dissertationum ab *Arriano* digestarum lib iv *Ejusdem* Enchiridion, et ex deperditis sermonibus Fragmenta. Post Io. Uptoni aliorumque curas, denuo ad Codicum Mistorum fidem recens. lat. vers. Adnotat. Indicibus illustravit. *Ioh. Schweighäuser*. 3 vol. 8vo. maj. bds. Lips. 1799.

Essai général de fortification, d'attaque, et de défense des places. 3 vol. avec un cahier des plans. gr. 4to. à Berlin. 1799.

Euripidis *Alcæste*. Gotha. fd. 3s.

— *Cyclops*, e recens. J. G. C. Hopfner, cum observat. crit. edid. et usui scholar. adcommodavit. M. G. F. D. Goës. 8vo. fd. 1s. 6d.

— *Pharnissa*. a Schutz. 8vo. fd. 4s.

Gottlings Handbuch der Chemie. 2 thle. gr. 8vo. bds. 18s.

Görter's Gedichte. 2 thle. 8vo. bds. 8s. 6d.

Hermann's de Metris poetarum Græcorum et Roman. 8vo. bds. 8s. 6d.

Jacobi Anthologia Græca. 5 vol. bds. 1l. 7s. 6d.

Idem liber. chart. script. bds. 1l. 17s. 6d.

— *Animadversiones* in Antholog. Gr. vol. 1. pars 1 et 2. & vol. 2 pars 1 ma. 8vo. bds. 1l. 11s. 6d.

Idem

- Idem liber chart. script. 11. 17s. 6d.
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- Meine Reise in Deutschen Vaterlande. 8vo. bds. 6s.
- Mémoires de L'Institut National des Sciences et des Arts, pour l'an iv de la République. 3 tom. gr. 4to. avec fig. Paris. 1799.
- Plans et desseins, tirés de la belle Architecture & en 100 planches, accompagné d'un traité abrégé sur le beau considéré en lui-même par le Dr. Chr. Louis Stieglitz. 1 & 2 Liv. gr. in fol. a Leipzig. 1799. (the same in German.)
- Polybii histor. quicquid superest, ad Cod. Ms. fidem recens. lat. Casauboni version. probat. lectis. pass. reform. T. Schweighæuser. 9 vol. 8vo. bds. 7l.
- Idem liber. 9 vol. charta Hollandica. bds. 11l.
- Recherches sur La Géographie systématique et positive des Anciens; pour servir de Base à L'Histoire de la Géographie Ancienne. Par P. F. J. Gosselin, de l'Institut national de France. 2 tom. gr. 4to. avec fig. Paris. 1799.
- Riems Reise durch England. 2 vol. 12mo. bds. 11.
- Wahls vorder und nieder Asien, 1^o. Bde. mit Karte om Persien und Kupfern. gr. 8vo. bds. 11. 1s.
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- Zeichmurgen aus der schönen Baukunst 1^o. & 2^o. Liefening. gr. fol. 3l. 3s.

CORRESPONDENCE

"DR. HULL takes the liberty of intimating to the Analytical Reviewers, that the imputation of credulity, cast upon him, relative to the Cafe given by Villanova, is perfectly unmerited; since he has brought it forward for the *sole purpose* of proving Mr. Simmons guilty of a striking inaccuracy, and has not even hinted to what degree of credit he thought it entitled."

"Manchester, June 8, 1799."

"Dr. H. does not tell us whether he believes or disbelieves Villanova's narratives;" but in justification of our charge of credulity, we shall refer such of our readers as may not have Dr. H.'s book before them to p. 544 of our Review, observing that the word *only* is not printed by Dr. H. in italics, and that the marks of admiration were inserted by us, and we shall add the following quotation from

from Dr. H.'s book, p. 37, where, speaking of the Case contained in Villanova's letter to Rouffet, he says, 'You see, sir, in all this history, there is no mention made of accomplishing the delivery by an actual cautery. Is it not, sir, extremely wrong either inadvertently, ignorantly, or wilfully, to misrepresent the words of a *respectable* author, and then attempt to destroy his *credibility* by an unfounded charge of a fondness for the marvellous?' The words misrepresented were those of Villanova, though the author, whose credibility Mr. S. attempted to destroy, was Rouffet. T.

THE author of 'Letters to W. Wilberforce, Esq.' desires us to announce the following alteration of a passage in his book, which we quoted in our last Number, page 492, par. 3.

'When it can be shewn that God created the meanest reptile, either with a determination to render it *eternally* miserable, or with a prescience of *this* misery,' &c.

This modification of the sentence would certainly have obviated our objection to it, as appearing to call in question the prescience of the Deity. We think, however, that he would make the passage still more correct, by omitting altogether the allusion to *prescience* and *determination*; since it is merely an identical proposition to say of an omnipotent and omniscient Being, that he has foreknown and predetermined what he has created, and since, moreover, the immediate object of the author's reference is not the disposition of the Deity, but the state of a particular part of his creation.

I N D E X.

Articles which have the first word printed in *Italics* refer to the subordinate not to the principal Subjects of the Books. The Letters F. G. &c. after Articles denote that the Works are in French, German, &c.

A.		B.	
ABINGDON'S (Lord) Strictures on Pitt's Speeches	637	Bachelors, Island's	613
Adams's Lectures, Jones's edition of,	361	Bailleul's Report on 18th Fructidor, Carnot's Reply to,	377
Address to the people, Fellowes's	379	Baillie's (Dr. M.) Engravings of Morbid Anatomy	652
Adelaide of Wulffingen, Kotzebue's, Thompson's translation of,	411	Balnea, Carey's	643
Adolphus's (J.) biographical Memoirs of the French Revolution	28	Bannantine's (J.) Memoirs of Colonel Despard	45
Africa, Park's Travels in the interior of	450	Baptism, Infant, defended, Malham's,	198
—, Rennel's geographical illustrations of,	352	Bastille, Glasse's Secrets of the English, disclosed	381
African Association, Proceedings of the,	348	Battle of the Nile	527
Agriculture of Lincolnshire, Young's view of the	561	—, Bowles's	90
Aikin's (Dr.) and Enfield's General Biography	588	—, Sotheby's,	204
Alcuin, a Dialogue	97	Bauers', (F.) Kew Plants	21
America (North), Weld's Travels through	337	Baynton (T.) on Old Ulcers of the Legs	651
Anatomy, Morbid, Baillie's Engravings of,	652	Beacon Hill, Mrs. Morton's	311
Anderson's (R.) Poems	87	Beauties of the Antijacobin	395
André, a Tragedy	532	—, Burke	387
Anecdotes and Biography, Rede's,	599	—, Saurin, Rivers's	200
Animals, Young on humanity to,	422	Bees, Murphy's, a Poem,	514
Annals of Chemistry, Vol. xxix, F	555,	Bell's (Dr. A.) Experiment in Education	83
	569	Belsham's (W.) Historical Dissertations	301
Anne (Queen), Somerville's History of the Reign of,	225	Bent's (W.) Meteorological Journal for 1798	87
Annual Register for 1792	31	Bevill (R.) on the Law of Homicide and Larceny	386
— 1793	36	Bible, Pratt's Prospectus of an octavo Polyglott,	442
Antients, Clarke on the civil Policy of the,	384	Bicheno's (J.) Glance at the History of Christianity	294
Antijacobin, or Weekly Examiner	388	Bingley (W.) on the Discontents in Ireland	639
—, Beauties of the,	395	Biographia Medica, Hutchinson's	644
—, Poetry of the,	ib.	Biographiana, Seward's	215
—, Reviewers, Lloyd's Letter to the,	426	Biographical Anecdotes of the French Revolution, Vol. II.	80
Apostles, Jesse on the Learning and Inspiration of the,	186	—, Memoirs of ditto, Adolphus's	28
Aristocrat, The,	416	Biography, general, Aikin's and Enfield's, Vol. I.	588
Astronomical Observations, Bradley's,	449	Bird's (H. M.) Proposals for paying the National Debt	220
Auckland's (Ld.) Speech on the Income Bill,	59	Blundell's (Bryan) Dancing Master's	643
Aurelio and Miranda, Boaden's,	148	Boaden's (J.) Aurelio and Miranda	148
Authors, new Catalogue of Living,	644	Bolland's	
VOL. .	U 6		

I N D E X.

Bolland's (W.) Epiphany	617
Bowen's (T.) Sermon	110
Bowles's (W.L.) Song of the Battle of the Nile	90
———, (J.) Retrospect	298
Braam's (Van) Dutch Embassy to China	127
Bradley's (Rev. Dr.) Astronomical Ob- servations	449
——— (Dr.) Medical and Physical Journal	282
Bristol's (Bishop of) Fast Sermon	444
Britannia Triumphant, King's,	527
British Flora, Hull's,	566
——— Nepos, Mayor's,	329
——— Plants, Symons's Synopsis of	22
——— Marine Plants, Stackhouse's De- scription of	271
——— Public Characters of 1798	26
——— Tourists, Mayor's	77
Brown's (Polemophilus) Fast Sermon	445
——— (C.), Inkle and Yarico	525
Browne's (A.), View of the Civil Law	178
Buonaparte's intercepted Correspondence, Part I.	149
Burke, Beauties of	387
Butler's (Rev. W.), Sermon on Charac- teristics of a Christian Soldier	298
C.	
Cæſarean Operation, Simmons on the	541
———, Hull's Defence of	542
Calvinism improved, Huntington's	66
Campbell's (T.) Pleasures of Hope	622
Cardinal Virtues, Poems on the,	524
Carcy's (G. S.) Balnea	643
Carnot's Reply to Bailleul's Report, F. E.	377
Castle of St. Donats	100
Catalogue, New, of Living Authors	644
Characters, British public	26
Cheetham's (R. F.) Poems	395
Chemistry, Annals of, Vol. XXIX. F.	555, 569
———, Jacquin's Elements of	578
China, Van Braam's Dutch Embassy to,	127
Christianity, Law's additional Evidences of,	290
———, Bicheno's History of,	294
Chronology, Pellizer's Elements of,	87
———, Investigation of the present	494
Cicero de Officiis, M'Cartney's Transla- tion of	134
Clarke's (Dr.) Medical Strictures	287
———, (Rev. Dr.) Letter to Lord Chol- mondeley	384
———, (J. S.) Naval Sermons	191
Collard's (J.), Praxis of Logic	485
Common Pleas, Reports of Cases in Court of,	181
Companion to Scotland, &c., Mrs. Mur- ray's	462
Confessions of the Countess of Lichtenau,	597
Constant Lover, Kotzebue's	416
Correspondence, Buonaparte's intercept- ed, Part I.	14
Count of Burgundy (Kotzebue's), Miss Plumptre's translation of,	145
Cow-Pox, Pearson's Inquiry concerning,	559
———, Simmons on,	ib.
Cow Pox, Jenner's further Observations on	646
Crabb's (G.) German Grammar	509
Cupid and Psyche, Translated from Apuleius	614
D.	
Dancing Masteriana, Blundell's	643
Daye's (Miss) Poems	201
Defensans's (N.) Plan for a Gallery of Portraits, &c.	540
Despard, Bannantine's Memoirs of Co- lonel,	45
Dialogue between Mr. N—z and his Friend	642
Dictionary, Tardy's French pronouncing	422
——— of Quotations	423
Diderot's Natural Son	325
Discarded Secretary.	444
Discovery, Various.	251
Discussion, Rights of	188
Diseases, Mortal, Ontyd's Treatise on	650
Dissenters, Rivers on the Political Con- duct of,	294
Divine Institution of David's Psalms	200
Dreghorn's (Lord) Works	9
Drennan's (Dr.) Letter to Mr. Pitt	154
——— Second Letter to Pitt	638
Dunlap's (Dr.) Lord of Nile	314
Duppa's (R.) Occurrences at Rome in 1798	56
Dutton's (T.) Literary Census	142
———, Pizarro	606
Duverger's Answer to Levisac, F.	642
Dyer (G.), on the Doctrine of Libels	301
Dyde's (W.) History and Antiquities of Tewksbury	79
E.	
East Indies, Stavorinus's Voyage to	102,
Education, Bell's Experiment in	83
———, Miss More's Strictures on Female,	478
Edwards's (Bryan) Proceedings of the African Association	348
Elegy (Gray's), Tew's Greek Version of	139
Embassy	

I N D E X.

Embassy to China, Van Braam's Dutch,	127	Graves's (Rev. R.) Sermons	496
English Grammar, Mrs. Mercy's Introduction to	641	Gurney's Trial of O'Coigley, &c.	60
Epiphany, Bolland's, a Poem	619	H.	
Epitaph (Gray's), Plumptre's Greek Version of,	140	Harmodius's Ode to Admiral Nelson	90
Essays on Theological and Moral Subjects, Ludlam's	288	Harral's (T.) Monody on Palmer	94
Evans's (J.) Funeral Sermon	296	Hays's (Miss) Victim of Prejudice	326
Evil Spirit, Leycester on the Uses of an	635	Hemet's (J.) Abridgment of Sturm's Reflections	501
Byre's (E. J.) Discarded Secretary	414	Henry, Mrs. Pilkington's	411
F.		Hewlett's (Rev. J.) Thanksgiving Sermon	500
Faber's (G. S.) Sermons	631	Hildreth's (W.) Niliad	91
False Friend, Mrs. Robinson's	209	Hinderwell's (T.) History and Antiquities of Scarborough	464
Falshood Detected, Marfom's	199	Hindooftan, Pennant's View of	113, 238
Family of Halden, Fontaine's	600	Historical Dissertations, Belham's	301
Farmer, Parkinson's Experienced,	267	History of the Reign of Queen Anne, Somerville's,	225
Fast, Lloyd's Lines on the	316	Switzerland, Wood's	217, 233
Fellowes's (R.) Address to the People	379	Hoche (General), Rousselin's Life of,	47
Ferriar's (Dr.) Illustrations of Sterne	427	Holford's (Mrs.) Neither's the Man	147
Fever, Jackson's History and Cure of	278	Holmes's (R.) Septuagint	5
Floating Land, Wright's art of,	438	Hope, Campbell's Pleasures of,	622
Flora, Hull's British,	566	Howard (J.) on Spherical Geometry	287
Fontaine's (A. la) St. Julien	324	Hull's (Dr. J.) British Flora	566
Family of F. Ten	600	Defence of the Cæsarean Operation	542
Frederic II, Secret Instructions to his Officers by,	385	Huntington's (Dr. J.) Calvinism improved	66
French Grammar, Levisac's	640	Hutchinson's (B) Biographia Medica	644
Pronouncing Dictionary, Tardy's	422	Hutton's (Dr. C.) Course of Mathematics	84
Revolution, Adolphus's Biographical Memoirs of,	28	I.	
Anecdotes of, Vol. II.	80	Iffand's (W. A.) Bachelors	613
Freedom, Whyte's Fallacy of	221	Inchbald's (Mrs.) Lovers' Vows	317
Frend's (W.) Principles of Taxation	41	Income Bill, Lord Auckland's Speech on the	59
G.		Act, Kyd's Substance of the	44
Gelfweiler's (M.) Translation of The Noble Lie	531	Income Tax, Estimate of the Produce of the,	636
Genlis' (Mad.) Rash Vows	535	India, Taylor's Travels to,	456
Geographical Illustrations of Africa, Rennel's,	352	Indian Cottage, St. Pierre's	419
Geography, Perkins's Elements of Ancient,	107	Ingram's (R. A.) Syllabus of Political Philosophy	635
Sael's Introduction to	503	Inkle and Yarico, Brown's	525
Geometry, Howard on Spherical	287	Innovation, a Poem	527
Gerahty's (J.) present State of Ireland	159	Interest, King's Tables of	640
Consequences of proposed Union	ib.	Ireland, Bingley on the discontents of	639
German Grammar, Crabb's	509	Gerahty's present State of	159
Gillet's (R.) Pleasures of Reason	502	Wallace on the Manufactures	68
Glaspe's (G. H.) Sermons	62	Irish Boy	92
Secrets of the English	381	Israeli's (J. D.) Romances	205
Bastille disclosed	381	J.	
Goethe's Goetz of Berlichingen	609	Jackson (Dr. R.) on the History and Cure of Fever	278
Goetz of Berlichingen, Goethe's	609	—'s (W.) Thanksgiving Sermon	445
Goetz of Berlichingen, Scott's Translation of	ibid.	Jacquin's (J. F.) Elements of Chemistry	578
Goodwin's (G.) Rising Castle	616	Jebb's	

I N D E X.

Jebb's (R.) Reply to 'Arguments for and against an Union'	384
Jenner's (Dr. E.) further Observations on Cow Pox	646
Jervis (Sir J. W.) on the Inexpediency of an Union	384
Jesse (W.) on the Learning and Inspiration of the Apostles	186
Joan of Arc, Southey's, second edit.	397
Johnson's (W.) Letter on an Union	383
Jones's (W.) Edition of Adams's Lectures	361
Journal, Bradley's Medical and Physical	282
———, Bent's Meteorological, for 1798	87

K.

Keeper's Travels in search of his Master	108
Kelly's (Dr.) Charity Sermon	295
Kew Plants, Bauer's Delineations of	21
King's (J.) Tables of Interest	640
——— (W.) Britannia Triumphant	527
King's Bench, Reports of Cases in,	180
Kirkman's (J. T.) Life of Macklin	591
Knowledge, Count Rumford's Proposals for an Institution for diffusing,	435
Knyghte of the Golden Locks, Mrs. Morgan's	525
Kotzebue's Natural Son, G:	317
——— Count of Burgundy	145
——— Stranger	528
——— Noble Lie	531
——— Virgin of the Sun	408
——— Spaniards in Peru	606
——— Adelaide of Wulffingen	411
——— Reconciliation	95
——— Self-Immolation	608
——— Constant Lover	416
Kyd's (S.) Substance of the Income Act	44

L.

Lamb's (C.) Rosamund Gray	208
Latin Primer, Lyne's,	507
Law, Civil, Browne's View of the,	178
—— of Nature and Nations, Mackintosh on the Study of the,	174
—— of Homicide and Larceny, Bevell's Treatise on the,	386
Law's (G.) additional Evidences of Christianity	290
Leonora (Bürger's) Mrs. Taylor's Ital. version of,	141
Letters, Tasker's	304
—— to Wilberforce, by a Layman	491
—— to her Pupils, Mrs. Wells's	539
—— from Laufanne	100
Lettice's (Dr. J.) Visitation Sermon	222
Levizac's (M. de) French Grammar	640
Levizac, Answer to, Duverger's, F.	642

Leycester (G. H.) on Political and Moral Uses of an Evil Spirit	635
Lewis's (M. G.) Love of Gain	522
—— Rolla, from Kotzebue	606
Libels, Dyer on the Doctrine of,	301
Libertines, The	601
Lichtenau (Countess of), Memoirs of	597
Life of Gen Hoche, Rouffelin's,	47
—— Macklin, Kirkman's	591
Literary Census, Dutton's	142
Lincolnshire, Young's View of the Agriculture of,	561
Lloyd's (C.) Lines on the Fast	426
—— Letter to the Antijacobin Reviewers	426
Logic, Collard's Praxis of	485
Lord of Nile, Dunlap's	314
Lotteries, State, Thoughts upon,	387
Love of Gain, Lewis's	522
Lover's Vows, Mrs. Inchbald's	317
Lucretius, Wakefield's	1
Ludlam's (T.) Theological and Moral Essays	288
Lycidas (Milton's), Plumptre's Greek Version of,	615
Lyne's (Rev. R.), Latin Primer	507

M.

M'Cartney's (W.) Translation of Cicero de Officiis	134
Mackintosh (J.) on the Study of the Law of Nature and Nations	174
MacLaine's (Dr. A.) Discourses	66
Maclaurin's (Lord Dregthorn's) Works	9
Malham's (Rev. J.) Infant Baptism defended	198
Manners's (Lady) Review of Poetry	623
Margarita	415
Marfom's (J.) Falsehood detected	199
Mathematical Analysis, Vilant's Elements of,	368
Mathematics, Hutton's Course of	84
Mavor's (Dr. W.) British Nepos	329
—— Tourists	77
Maurice's Sanscreeet Fragments	628
Medical and Physical Journal	282
—— Strictures, Clarke's	287
Menthæ Britannicæ, Sole's	653
Mentoria, Sequel to, Mrs. Murray's	503
Mercy's (Blanch) Introduction to Eng. Grammar	641
Mertens' (Dr. C. de) Account of the Plague at Moscow, 1771	441
Messiah (Pope's), Plumptre's Greek Version of,	137
Missionary Society, Wilks's Apology for the,	501
Montrose	602
Monkhouse's (Dr. R.) Sermon, for benefit of the Choir	297
—— before	296
Society of Free Masons	296
Monks	

INDEX.

Monkhouse's (Dr. R.) Sermon, Thankgiving	296	Perkins's (R. jun.) Ancient Geography	107
Morals of all Nations, St. Lambert's, F.	474	Pennant's View of Hindoostan	113, 238
Mores' (Miss H.) Strictures on Female Education	478	Phthisilogia, a Poem	627
Morgan's (Mrs.) Knyghte of the Golden Locks	525	Piece of Family Biography	215
Morton's (Mrs.) Beacon Hill	311	Pilkington's (Mrs.) Henry	421
Moscow, Mertens' Account of the Plague at, 1771	440	Pitt, Drennan's Letter to,	154
Moseley's (W.) Sermon on the Fall of Babylon	498	——'s Speeches on the Union	162
Mother's Friend, Le Texier's, F.	512	—— Lord Abingdon's Strictures on	637
Murphy's (Ar.) Bees, a Poem	514	Pitt, Drennan's Second Letter to	638
Murray's (Mrs.) Guide to Scotland and the Lakes	462	Pizarro, Dutton's Translation of	606
—— (Mrs. A.) Sequel to Men-toria	503	Plague at Moscow, 1771, Mertens' Account of the,	440
Myfterious Seal, Proby's	602	Plants, British, Symons's Synopsis of,	22
N.		Pleasures of Hope, Campbell's,	622
National Debt, Bird's proposals for paying the,	220	Pleasures of Reason, Gillet's	502
Natural Son, Diderot's, a Novel	325	Plumptre's (J.) Greek Version of Pope's Messiah	137
—— Kotzebue's, a Play, G.	317	—— Gr. Version of Lycidas	615
—— Mrs. Inch-bald's Translation of	ib.	—— Confecration Sermon	109
—— Miss Plump-tre's ditto	ib.	—— (Miss) Translation of the Count of Burgundy	145
—— Porter's ditto	ib.	—— Translation of Spaniards in Peru	606
Neither's the Man, Mrs. Holford's	147	—— Natural Son	317
Nelson (Adm.) Harmodius's Ode to	90	—— Virgin of the Sun	408
Nereis Britannica, Stackhouse's,	271	Poems, Anderson's	87
Niliad, Hildreth's	91	—— Miss Daye's	208
Noble Lie, The, from Kotzebue	531	—— On the Cardinal Virtues	524
—— Translation, by M. Geisweiler	ib.	—— Cheetham's	395
Nurse, Tanfillo's, Roscoe's Translation of,	23	—— Relph's	406
O.		—— Southey's, Vol. II.	403
O'Coigley, Gurney's Trial of	60	Poetry of the Antijacobin	395
Ontyd (Dr. C. G.) on Mortal Diseases	650	——, Lady Manners's Review of	623
P.		Political Philosophy, Ingram's Syllabus of	635
Paddingtonensis, Hortus, Salisbury's	541	Poor Laws, Saunders's Observations on the	181
Palmer, Harral's Monody on	94	Pope, Shade of	314
Papendick's (G.) Translation of the Stranger	528	Portraits, Defensans' Plan for a National Gallery of	540
Park's (M.) Travels in Africa	450	Poverty and Wealth, Heiberg's, Wilson's Translation of,	608
Parliament, Arguments on the Exclusion of the Roman Catholics from	383	Porcupine's (Peter) Remarks on Dr. Priestley's Explanation	637
Parliaments, Competency of, to incorporate their Legislatures	382	Pratt's (J.) Prospectus of an 8vo. Polyglott Bible	442
Parkinson's (R.) Experienced Farmer	267	Prayers, Unitarian, for Individuals	200
Patriot (The), a Poem	93	Proby's (W. C.) Myfterious Seal	602
Pearson (Dr. G.) on the Cow-Pox	550	Psalms, David's, Divine Institution of	200
Peckham Frolic, The,	613	Q.	
Pellizer's (J.E.) Elements of Chronology	87	Quotations, Dictionary of,	423
		R.	
		Randall's (A. F.) Letter to the Women	424
		Rash Vows, Mad. Genlis's	535
		Reader, The, or Reciter	505
		Rebel, The	602
		Reconciliation, Kotzebue's	95
		Rede's	

I N D E X.

Rede's (C.) Anecdotes and Biography	109, 221, 297
— Abridgment of St. Pierre's	444
Studies of Nature,	445, 509
Reflections for every Day in the Year,	631
Hemer's	191
Restoration, Universal	62
Rennel's Geographical Illustrations of	496
Africa	66
Relph's (Rev. J.) Poems	215
Reports of Cases in Common Pleas,	314
Part IV.	517, 624
— King's Bench,	541
Vol. VIII. Part I.	443
Retrospect, Bowles's	166
Revenue, Rose on the Increase of the	257
	653
Rights of Discussion	225
Rising Castle, Goodwin's	204
Rivers (Rev. D.) on Political Conduct of	204
the Dissenters	205
—'s Beauties of Saurin	56
Robinson's (Mrs.) False Friend	208
Rolla, Lewis's Translation of	370
Roman Catholics, Arguments on the	23
Exclusion of, from Parliament	205
Romances, D'Israeli's	435
Rome, Duppa's Occurrences at, in	56
	370
Rosamund Gray, Lamb's	208
Rose (G) on the Increase of the Revenue	370
	23
Roscoe's Translation of the Nurse	23
Rousselin's (A.) Life of Gen. Hoche, F.	47
	190
Rowland for an Oliver	190
Rudd's (P.) Answer to Arguments for	158
and against an Union	435
Rumford's (Count) Proposals for an In-	435
stitution for diffusing Knowledge	
S.	
Sacred Office, Smith's Lectures on the	443
Sacri's New Introduction to Geography	503
Salisbury's (W.) Hortus Paddingtonensis	541
	628
Sancreet Fragments, Maurice's	181
Saunders (R.) on the Poor Laws	200
Saurin, Rivers's Beauties of,	464
Scarborough, Hinderwell's History of	464
Scotland, Mrs. Murray's Guide to the	462
Beauties of,	609
Scott's (W.) Goetz of Berlichingen	300
Secession from Parliament vindicated,	385
Wyvill's	608
Secret Instructions by Frederic II. to his	5
Officers	498
Self-Immolation, Kotzebue's, Neuman's	634
Translation of	
Septuagint, Holmes's	
Sermons, Single	110, 222, 295, 498
	634
Sermons, Consecration	109, 221, 297
— Fast	444
— Thanksgiving, 61, 110, 296,	445, 509
Faber's	631
Clarke's, Noyal	191
Glasie's	62
Graves's	496
MacLaine's	66
Seward's Biographiana	215
Shade of Pope,	314
— (M's) Sonnets, &c.	517, 624
Simmons (W.) on the Cæsarean Opera-	541
tion	443
Smith's (Dr. J.) Lectures on the Sacred	166
Office	257
Society, Royal, Transactions of, for	653
1798, Part II.	225
— of Edinburgh, Trans-	204
actions of, Vol IV.	403
Sole's (W.) Menthe Britannica	397
Somerville's (Dr. J.) History of the Reign	606
of Queen Anne	528
Sonnets and Odes from Horace, Miss	528
Seward's,	517, 624
Sotheby's (W.) Battle of the Nile	204
Southey's Poems, Vol. II.	403
— Joan of Arc, second edit.	397
Spaniards in Peru, Kotzebue's, Miss	606
Plumptre's Translation of	528
Spencer's (J.) Thoughts on an Union	158
	524
St. Julien, Fontajne's	419
St. Pierre's Indian Cottage	419
— Studies of Nature, Rede's	586
Abridgment of,	271
Stackhouses (J.) Nereis Britannica	636
State of the Nation, Vol. III.	102, 352
Stavorinus's (J. S.) Voyages to the	427
East Indies	61
Sterne's Ferriar's Illustrations of	110
Still's (J.) Thankgiving Sermon	528
Stillingfleet's (Rev. J.) ditto	528
Stranger, The, from Kotzebue	528
— Papendick's translation	ibid.
of,	505
Student, The, No. II.	568
Studies of Nature, Rede's Abridgment	217, 253
of,	22
Switzerland, Wood's History of	620
Symons's (J.) Synopsis of British Plants	
System, Wife's, a Poem	
T.	
Tale of the Times, Mrs. West's	603
Tardy's, (l'Abbé) Fr. Pronouncing Dic-	422
tionary	304
Tasker's (Rev. W.) Series of Letters	456
Taylor's (Major) Travels to India	141
— (Mrs.) Italian Version of Leo-	41
nora	Tew's
Taxation, Friend's Principles of	

I N D E X.

Tew's (E.) Greek Version of Grey's	139	Virgin of the Sun, Kotzebue's, Thompson's Translation of	408
Elegy	79		Miss
Tewksbury, Dyde's History of,	512	Plumptree's ditto,	ibid.
Texier's (Le) Mother's Friend, F.	203		
Theodore, a Poetic Tale	408		
Thompson's (R) Translation of the Virgin of the Sun	411		
	Adelaide of		
Wulfingen	411		
Transactions, Philosophical, of Royal Society for 1798, Part II.	166		
_____ of Royal Society of Edinburgh, Vol. IV.	257		
True Patriotism, a Drama	535		
Tucker's (Dean) Proposal of an Union	158		
U.			
Ulcers of the Legs, Baynton, on Old	651		
Union, Arguments for and against an,	158		
_____, Rudd's Answer to	ibid.		
_____, Jebb's reply to,	384		
_____ Letters			
in Answer to,	637		
_____, Foster's Speech on,	638		
_____, Thoughts on an, Spencer's	158		
_____, Johnson's Answer to	383		
_____, Mr. Pitt's Speeches on the	161		
_____ Lord			
Abingdon's Strictures on,	638		
_____, Gerahty's Consequences of the proposed,	159		
_____, Jarvis on the Inexpediency of an,	384		
Unitarian Prayers for Individuals	200		
Universal Restoration	194		
V.			
Vagabond, Walker's	210		
Valpy's (Dr. R.) Consecration Sermon	221		
Vancouver's Voyage of Discovery round the World	251		
Victim of Prejudice, Miss Hays's	326		
Vilant's (N.) Elements of Mathematical Analysis	368		
		W.	
		Wakefield's (Rev. G.) Lucretius	1
		Wales, Warner's Second Walk through	58
		Walker's (R.) Thanksgiving Sermon	111
		_____ (G.) Vagabond	210
		Wallace (T.) on the Manufactures of Ireland	68
		Wansey's Letter to the Bishop of Salisbury, Critic's Strictures on	190
		_____ Country	Cu-
		rates, Remarks on	ibid.
		_____ G. W. on	ibid.
		Weld's (J. jun.) Travels through North America	337
		Wells's (Mrs.) Letters to her Pupils	539
		West's (Mrs.) Tale of the Times	603
		Whyte's (Dr. D.) Fallacy of French Freedom	221
		Wilberforce, a Layman's Letters to	491,
			619
		Wilks's (J.) Apology for the Missionary Society	501
		Williams's (D.) Thanksgiving Sermon	500
		Willis's (Dr. T.) Consecration Do.	297
		Wilson's Poverty and Wealth	608
		Wife's (Rev. J.) System	620
		Women, Randall's Letter to the,	424
		Wood's (J.) History of Switzerland	217,
			233
		Wright (T.) on the Art of floating Land	438
		Wyvill's (Rev. C.) Secession vindicated	300
		Y.	
		Young's (Ar.) View of the Agriculture of Lincolnshire	561
		_____ (T.) Essay on Humanity to Animals	422